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ABSTRACT

A description of the state of affairs of rural youth organizations in Australia is presented. The data were obtained from the following sources: (1) brochures from the various organizations, (2) personal association with the organizations, and (3) from the State Organizers, Chief Executives and other officers. Aspects of youth organizations covered include: origins, structure and composition, pursuits and activities, financial arrangements, employed staff and personnel, and the national structure. The future role of rural youth organization in Australia is found to lie in the context of contemporary Australian society. A bibliography is included. (CK)

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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

Keith V. Topfer

AC 012 747

A COMPARATIVE STUDY

OF

THE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

IN AUSTRALIA

BY

KEITH V. TOPFER, H.D.A., B.A.

JANUARY 1971

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PREFACE

Providing the human race can withstand its headlong rush towards self-destruction in its struggle with power, populations and pollutions, future historians and students of social behaviour will probably look back on the twentieth century as one of the most dynamic eras in the life span of the planet.

Perhaps above all, the era will be recognised as the nursery of mans gregariousness; the time when man sought the company of his peers in work and play in the zealous pursuit of common interests or ideals - the era of the organisation and the organisation man.

But also the organisation youth for the century has seen the proliferation of structured and unstructured groups designed to attract youth as an important natural resource to be developed. The importance of shaping the malleable has been recognised and given prominence almost as though this stage of human metamorphosis has at last been emancipated.

By no means the least of these are the rural youth organisations throughout the world. The number of members currently being attracted to these may be gauged by the fact there are some 267 known organisations functioning in ninety one countries. Australia is one of these and although the 20,000

odd members might be construed as a small fish in a very large pond, the rural youth population has some significance in relation to the overall numbers of young people in Australia with an active interest in rural education.

The fact there is not a single rural youth organisation in Australia, but six, is confusing to the members in each State and more particularly to interested observers in other places. Rural youth organisations in other countries generally function on a nation-wide basis and the existence of more than one organisation in a single country indicates that different bodies often compete for members in common districts.

In Australia however, the six organisations operate one in each of the six States of the Commonwealth.

The interest in this study originated when the writer attempted a brief descriptive study of the organisations, which was subsequently published in the Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture. It became evident at the time that the description not only lacked detail but also treated each organisation in turn and it was therefore difficult to effect worthwhile comparisons.

Another important issue was the dearth of central reference material on all the organisations for which there is a growing demand both from viewers within Australia, and those in developing countries interested in promoting rural education through informal methods.

The material for this study has been compiled from three main sources. From the heaps of fragmented sheets and brochures obtained from the various organisations; from personal experience in twenty one years of association with the organisations in all States (but mainly Tasmania) and the national rural youth bodies; and direct from the State Organisers, Chief Executives and other responsible officers in each of the States. As far as possible statements in this study have been checked by these officers and with their blessings the final draft has been prepared.

One other point must be made. This is not an evaluation of the organisations in Australia, merely a relatively precise statement of the state of affairs at this point in time. It is probable that such an evaluation is needed - it is possible this study could be a foundation on which such an exercise could someday be built.

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I.

THE ORIGINS OF THE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

The history of many movements and organisations is often written around individuals who, with foresight and devotion, took the first tenuous steps and eventually became revered as the founding fathers.

The origins of the rural youth movement in Australia cannot be traced to any single person, although it would be possible to identify quite a few individuals who, through their personal enthusiasm, zeal and foresight made a very real contribution.

Without minimising their efforts in any way, for the purposes of this exercise more attention will be given to influences rather than people. In this way it might be possible to identify specific needs and pressures which occurred in previous years, highly relevant to conditions emerging in some developing countries today.

The evolution and development of the organisation of rural youth in Australia has been closely linked with the development of agricultural technology and methods employed by educational agencies to convey improved farming methods to the rural population.

Two important factors may be identified which created the climate suitable for the development of the Movement. The first was the need to exploit every possible avenue as part of an education programme in the interests of primary producers and the national economy; and second, the development and subsequent effectiveness of rural youth organisations in other parts of the world.

From the arrival of the First Fleet in Australia in 1788, Australian farmers had more than their fair share of headaches. By the end of the nineteenth century, much thought and effort had been devoted to solving the problems of crop and animal husbandry in an unfriendly environment. It was at this time that State Departments of Agriculture were formed. By the 1920's, a considerable amount of information on effective and economical production in Australia had been accumulated, but it became clear that the possession of these answers and information was not sufficient in itself. There was a need to step up the processes by which the information could be passed on to those on the land.

The problem was further complicated by a seemingly natural resistance on the part of the farmer to adopt new practices and ideas. This attitude had no doubt been influenced by the hard physical effort required by the farmers to eke out in most instances meagre incomes. their resistance and conservatism being pre-disposed by the backache and heart breaks resulting

from crop and livestock failures. As Williams puts it:

> Incomes were low and unemployment a constant threat to falterers in the task of land development. Farm capital investment needed to open up and develop new land was often derived for the most part from prolonged toil by the farm family.[1]

As yet many of the new practices - at least in their eyes - were unproven.

The years between the two World Wars were significant for Australian agriculture. Immediately after World War I markets seemed sound and returns sufficient to induce an overall expansion in the industry. This expansion was aided by vigorous Closer Settlement Schemes for ex-servicemen in all States, promoted by joint ventures between the Commonwealth and State Governments.

New wheat farms were opened up in the Mallee in Victoria and the Darling Downs in Queensland and in Western Australia; the number of dairy farms in N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania increased; the sugar industry expanded in Queensland; new orchards were planted out in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area in N.S.W., and the Huon and Tamar Valleys in Tasmania.[2]

This buoyancy, however, was short lived. By the late 1920's

> the steady accumulation of stocks and the increase in the supplies of farm commodities in the world resulted in falling prices which brought farming face to face with disaster ... the nation as a whole was equally on the

---

[1] D.B. Williams, Agricultural Extension, (Carlton: Victoria, M.V.P. 1968) p.102

[2] Samuel Wadham, "Australian Farming 1788-1965, (Melbourne: Cheshire, 1967) p.45

> rocks, the States had been borrowing heavily in London and there was a danger that some of the short term loans could not be met.[3]

Farmers who had borrowed heavily to buy machinery and fertilisers were bankrupt and confidence in Government agricultural advisory services was at very low ebb.

A further complication was the fact that levels of efficiency in farming were not high. The Development and Migration Commission, which had been set up by the Commonwealth Government to investigate farm production, marketing and other related subjects in Australia, spelt out in very clear terms the calamatous state of affairs. Although not entirely representative of the Australian scene as a whole, the Commission reported on Tasmania:

> There are possibilities for effecting very great improvements in agricultural and in the methods of production by establishing new industries and considerable reorganisation of markets on co-operative and national lines.[4]

The report indicated that some forms of cropping and depleted soil fertility to the stage where yields had declined until production was perilously near the unprofitable stage. Hay crops were no longer sufficiently profitable, the dairying industry was unsatisfactory, the bacon industry was handicapped, the number of fat lambs produced was not sufficient to meet the requirements of local markets, the poultry industry had not

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[3] Ibid., p.51

[4] Development and Migration Commission, (H.W. Gepp Chairman) Interim Report on Investigation into present position in Tasmania (Melbourne: Government Printer, 23 May 1927) Appendix 2, p.5

developed much beyond home requirements and assistance was needed for the fruit industry.

It was therefore the result of pressures like these that governments and other agencies responded by overhauling their respective roles and responsibilities in terms of farmer education.

It is worth noting that it was during this time that many agricultural advisory services were re-organised - the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (1926) now the C.S.I.R.O. inaugurated; the Pasture Improvements Leagues were formed in several States; the Australian Wool Growers' Council (1920); the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation (1930).[5]

It was also at this time the first Junior Farmer Club was formed in Australia. Many had recognised the part which could be played by farm youth in an education programme. Tearle claims -

> the problem was to break through traditional concepts and methods in farming and an aversion to 'government white collar theorists'. It was recognized that the younger person is more readily amenable to innovation and further that working through youth on their own home properties could provide a multitude of miniature experiment farms which could be observed critically by the parents.[6]

But the decision to form a Junior Farmer Club was not a spontaneous event. Apart from the economic influences previously referred to, there had been organisations for rural youth in other parts of the world. Indeed, there had been groups of young

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[5] D.B. Williams (Ed.) Agriculture in the Australian Economy, (Sydney: Halstead Press, 1967) pp. 107-109.

[6] W. Tearle, "The Junior Farmers' Clubs in N.S.W.", The Organisation of Adult Education in Australia: Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Conference Australian Association of Adult Education, Adelaide 1967. Vol. II p.311

people generally referred to as Clubs of various types in Australia prior to this time. The influence of these must be taken into account.

The 4H Movement[7] is the largest rural youth-type organisation in the world today. It has spread from the U.S.A. to over 40 other countries involving somewhere between six and seven million members.

4H traces its origins to boys and girls extension work in the U.S. in connection with county and state industrial affairs in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Some of the county superintendents of schools in the central states as early as 1896 conducted boys' and grils' competitions in the production and showing of farm animals and products. Members of these clubs were supplied with better grades of seed and/or livestock and were required to take these home and either plant the seed or raise the stock under supervision. The climax of the activity, the produce or livestock resulting from the project, was exhibited at a fair and appropriate prizes awarded. The results of this form of demonstration work were outstanding. Parents were quick to realise the advantages of better seeds and foundation stock and also improved agricultural methods.

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[7]The name of the Movement is derived from the members' pledge

"I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
my heart to greater loyalty,
my hands to larger service, and
my health to better living,
for my club, my community, and my country."

> By the end of 1908, corn club work in the South was spreading so rapidly that it became apparent that some sort of overall direction would be needed. Agents of co-operative demonstration work had enough on their hands supervising adult demonstrators. Colleges, experiment stations and State Departments of Agriculture were co-operating with school superintendents on an unofficial basis but without adequate authority or financing. Someone was needed in Washington whose sole duty was to supervise boys corn clubs. There also needed to be leadership in the states charged specifically with the promotion of club work.[8]

The next major step in the evolution of the 4H Organisation was the passage of the Smith-Lever Extension Act in 1914. This provided for a permanent nation wide system of agricultural work to be carried on by the State Agricultural Colleges in co-operation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This work included instruction and demonstration in agriculture and home economics, teaching through field demonstrations, publications and personal supervision. The Smith-Lever Act not only set up the administrative framework for the co-ordination of rural youth club work throughout the U.S. but also provided the necessary finance.

> The law provided an outright grant of $10,000 per state for the first year and for every year thereafter. The second year an additional $600,000 was to be divided among the states according to their rural populations and each year thereafter. After seven years an additional $500,000 was to be divided up. Thus the total federal appropriations was to grow year by year until it reached $4,000,100,000 annually in addition to the $10,000 per state. All except the $10,000 had to be matched dollar for dollar from resources within the state whether by state legislature, the college, counties, or by individual contributions.[9]

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[8] Franklin M. Reck, The 4-H Story (Ames: Iowa State College Press, 1951) p.60

[9] Ibid., p.124

Unfortunately, in Australia there was no Smith-Lever Act. There had been some parallel development of the project type Clubs in Australia and, in fact, there are records of a corn club established at Eglington, near Bathurst, N.S.W., in the 1900's. This was a school club in which the members had their plots within the school grounds. Immediately prior to World War I, members began establishing plots at their homes and at about the same time calf clubs, corn clubs, poultry clubs and others were formed in association with the schools, mainly in rural areas.

Similar organisations were being formed in other States. Experimental clubs in Queensland (Young Farmer Clubs) were established at Englesbury and Marburg in 1913. Calf Clubs had been formed in Victoria prior to World War I, but had died out and were re-established in the early 1920's. There was a calf club in Tasmania in 1924.

Although these clubs had been functioning in Australia on almost parallel lines to the 4H Movement in the U.S. prior to World War I, it is probable that the present organisation in Australia can be traced to a meeting held early in 1926 by officers of the Departments of Agriculture, Education, representatives of the Country Womens' Association, the Agricultural Bureau and other farmers' organisations in N.S.W.

This meeting inaugurated an organisation known as Junior Farmers' Clubs, with objects to encourage better methods in agricultural and animal husbandry and develop a spirit of leadership and interest in the farm, the farm home and the community.

It was not until November 1928 however, that the scheme came into operation, with the appointments of a State Organiser and two officers in the field.[10]

The establishment of the Movement in other States was essentially a post World War II phenomenon. In Queensland, the establishment of school project clubs took place in 1946 when the Government appointed a Commission to investigate agricultural education. This Commission recommended that a Junior Farmer Organisation be established to offer membership to young people of rural areas aged 15 - 21 years. This Organisation was inaugurated in 1947 to attempt to bridge the educational gap which existed during the years following school leaving and induction of young people into existing adult organisations.[11]

In the same year, 1947, the Senior Section Young Farmers' of Victoria was formed. The State Government recognised the new body by making the first annual grant to £1,000 to pay salaries and expenses of two supervisors for the Movement. The Government also decided that this and future grants would be made through the Department of Agriculture and that they would be administered by the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria who would actually employ the supervisi[illegible] staff.[12]

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[10] Summarised freely from W. Tearle "An overview of the important aspects of Rural Youth in Australia, including their development and nature, philosophies and objectives." (presented to National Rural Youth Seminar, Hawkesbury Agric. College, Jan. 1965)

[11] From "History and background", Official Handbook of the Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland. (Brisbane: Butter Marketing Board, 1968)

[12] From Youth Point the Way (Melbourne: Bank of N.S.W., Sept. 1966)

In 1953, the administration of the Junior Farmers' Movement in W.A. was handed over to the Youth Education Section of the Education Department. An Organisation had been functioning in that State since 1934 when a Club was formed at Harvey under the support and sponsorship of the Harvey Agricultural Society. The formation of other clubs followed and what might be called the first annual conference was held at Pastoral House during Perth Show Week in 1937. Four clubs took part - Harvey, Kellerberrin. Waroona and Wagin. In 1938, the first State Advisory Council was formed with the Chief Inspector of the Education Department on the Council acting as Organiser for the Federation. Following the recession during World War II, the West Australian Federation of Junior Farmers' Clubs became an incorporated body in 1952.[13]

The Organisation in Tasmania developed from a meeting held in 1950 which had been convened by the Royal Agricultural Society. Prior to this time, however, isolated clubs had been functioning at various parts of the State under the leadership of teachers attached to country schools. The R.A.S. had seen the development of Junior Farmer clubs in other parts of Australia and convened the meeting inviting representatives of some 15 organisations, including banks, agricultural show societies and other farming bodies, which collectively made up the original State Council.

The last Organisation to be formed in Australia was the Rural Youth Movement of South Australia. The Minister for

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[13] From "History & Organisation", Junior Farmers Handbook of the West Australian Federation of Junior Farmers (Perth: J.F. Movement Council of W.A., undated).

Agriculture appointed a provisional Council in 1950 to explore the possibilities of establishing an organisation in that State and to suggest ways and means of controlling and financing it. The Director of Agriculture conferred with existing organisations in Australia and as the result of his recommendations, was appointed Chairman of the inaugural Rural Youth Council. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture also acted as Secretary of the Council. The terms of reference were that the Council would act as the sponsors and counsellors of the Movement during its formative stages and to act in a general directive capacity until the Movement was finally established. The green light was given in 1952 to form the Organisation in that State on two bases - Junior Clubs 11-15 years and Senior Clubs 16-21 years.[14]

Since these beginnings, the various Organisations in Australia have functioned independently retaining autonomy within the respective States. Each Organisation has undergone changes in line with needs and various pressures which have emerged from time to time. Most of these changes have occurred independently within the respective State Organisations. Some occurred however, simultaneously in an effort to standardise some of the policies and methods for the sake of developing a uniform national image.

Major moves towards uniformity were the adoption of uniform objectives and a move towards a common name. Both resulted from a seminar conducted in 1964,[15] where it was agreed to recommend to the State Organisations the adoption of uniform

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[14]Interview with A.T. Hooper, Senior Advisor, Rural Youth Movement of South. Australia. June 23, 1970.

[15]National Rural Youth Seminar held at the University of New England, January 1964.

objectives and the common name of Rural Youth.

Since then the objectives have been adopted and written into the constitutions of the State organisations. The names of the Organisations, however, are still by no means uniform. Originally the Queensland, N.S.W., W.A. and Tasmanian organisations were known as Junior Farmers with Victoria using the title Young Farmers and the most recently formed organisation, South Australia, Rural Youth. From 1965 on each of the Queensland, N.S.W. and Tasmanian organisations adopted the name Rural Youth. The West Australian Organisation, however, has retained its original name of Junior Farmers, as has Victoria adhered to the name, Young Farmers. The position thus exists today where there are four Rural Youth Organisations, one Young Farmer and one Junior Farmer Organisation operating in Australia.

II.

THE STRUCTURE & COMPOSITION OF THE ORGANISATIONS

The six Organisations aim to attract young people to their ranks primarily for educational purposes. As such, the common base of all the Organisations is the member and it would therefore seem logical to start a description of the Organisations at this point. Generally speaking however, all Organisations tended to develop in the opposite direction, beginning with some sort of Council containing people interested in promoting the educational development of rural youth. From the steps taken by these Councils, the Organisations spread to the rural districts in each State.

Because the development has taken place in this direction, it is therefore appropriate to start with the central body, tracing it through the various organisational levels to arrive at the basic, most important unit, the member. It is important however, to make a few definitions which will add more meaning to the description.

In the first place it will be noted that each organisation consists of various parts or levels. In many instances these contain a mixture of people of all ages, that is, not all are under the membership retiring age of about 25 years. Strictly speaking all are members of the Organisation, but some

distinction is necessary to avoid confusion between those at whom the programmes are directed and those representative of other bodies, yet involved with the administration of the organisation. The distinction will therefore be made between members (rural youth under 25 years of age) and supporting members (persons representing other Organisations and interests.

Members belong to the Organisation as a whole, through their affiliation with a particular club.[1] In some cases, however, through election to higher levels in the Organisations, the same person could be a constituent (or member) of anything up to four sections of the Organisation. Supporting members tend to belong to one section such as the State Council; however, in some instances members of club Advisory Committees may also be elected to other levels.

This raises the point that each organisation consists of a series of levels between the top administrative body (e.g. State Council) and the individual members in groups - called clubs. These intermediate levels operate to act as co-ordinating bodies for groups in large geographical areas. The groups are by no means mutually exclusive for in most instances each level contains representatives elected from the lower levels.

The Structure of the Organisations

To a large extent each Organisation is pyramydal in structure with a central council as the apex, as the major

[1]There is some provision for "lone members". See p. 43.

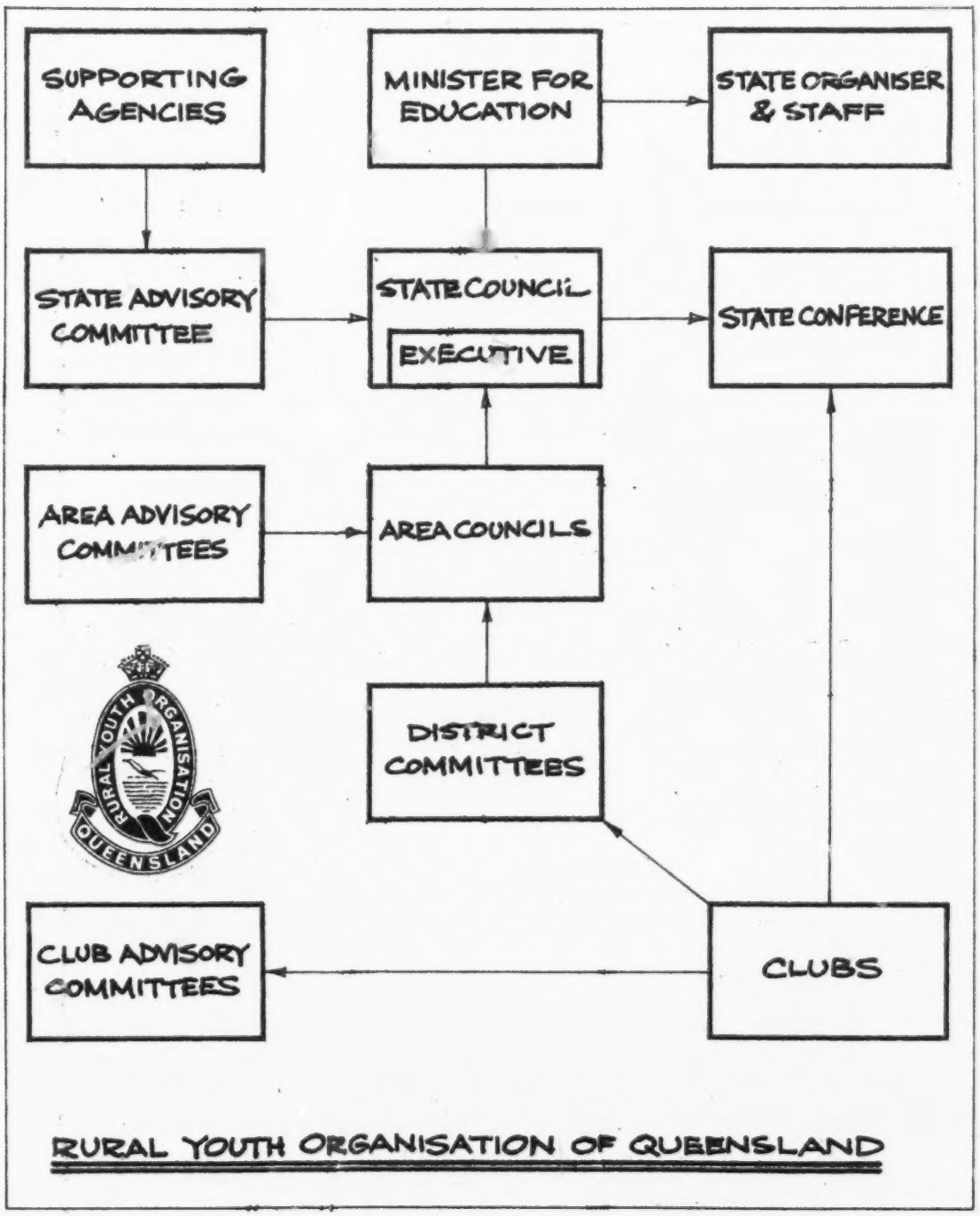
administrative body, fanning out through intermediate levels to clubs, the base.

The following structure charts illustrate the relationship of each level in the organisations in terms of representation. That is, where an arrow connects two sections it can be taken that representatives are appointed from one body as members of the other. The connections do not necessarily indicate any direction of responsibility nor are they lines of communication. These relationships should be clarified in the following text.

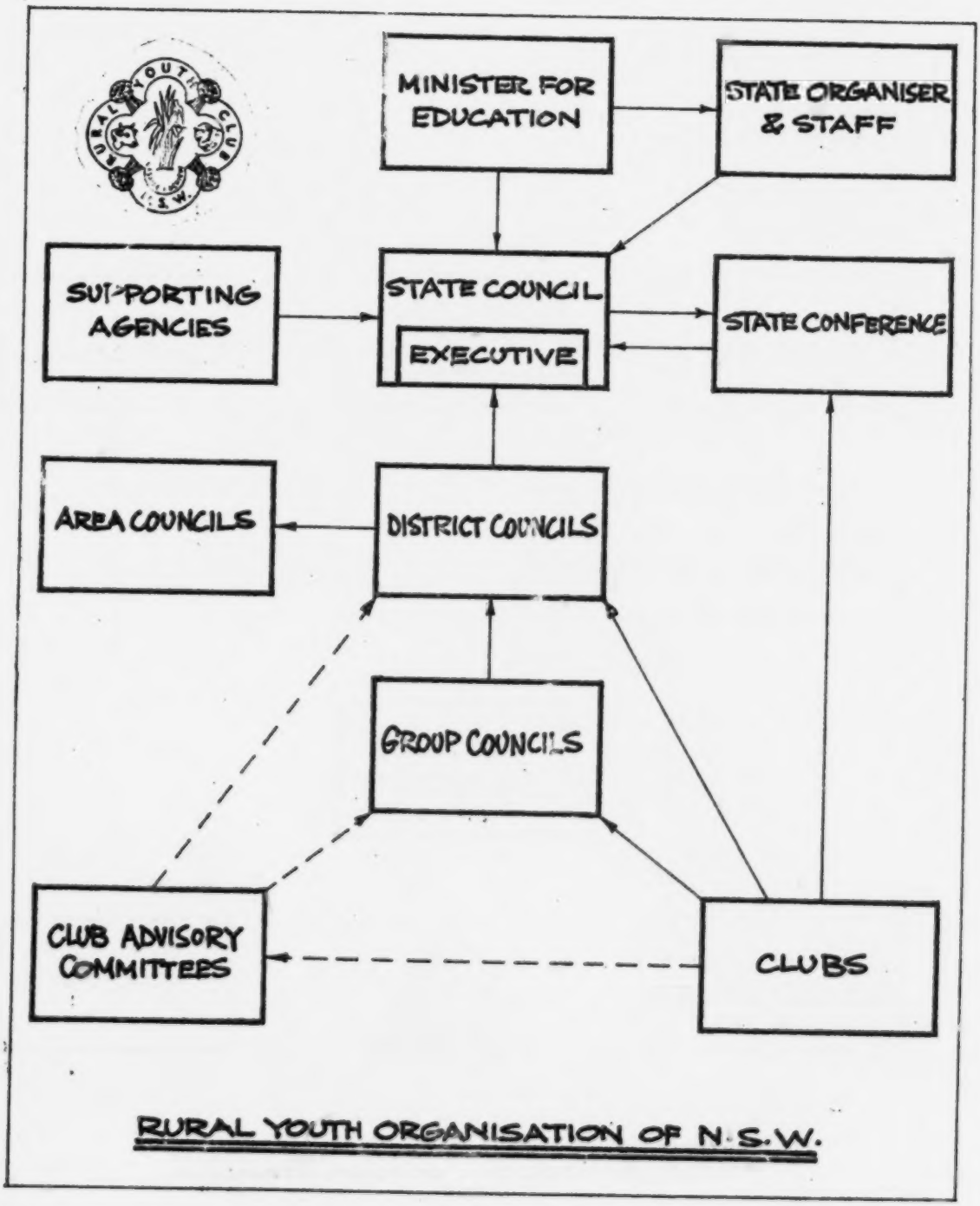
In Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania the apex is the State Council, in S.A. the Rural Youth Council, and in W.A. the State Executive. These are generally referred to as the 'governing bodies', however, they differ in terms of responsibility and associations with other sections of the Organisations. The governing bodies are usually appointed annually. In Queensland, N.S.W. and S. Australia, the Councils are the major policy forming bodies, having the final say in all matters affecting the respective organisations. In the remaining States however, the bodies are in effect subordinate to a State Conference and are thus implementing, rather than policy making bodies.

The governing bodies are concerned with administering the programmes and activities of the Organisations, making appropriate decisions to implement guidelines defined by State Conferences (as in Victoria, W.A., Tasmania) or on its own initiative (N.S.W. Queensland, S. Australia).

Meetings are usually held in the Capital Cities of the State concerned.



RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF QUEENSLAND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STATE COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE
STATE CONFERENCE
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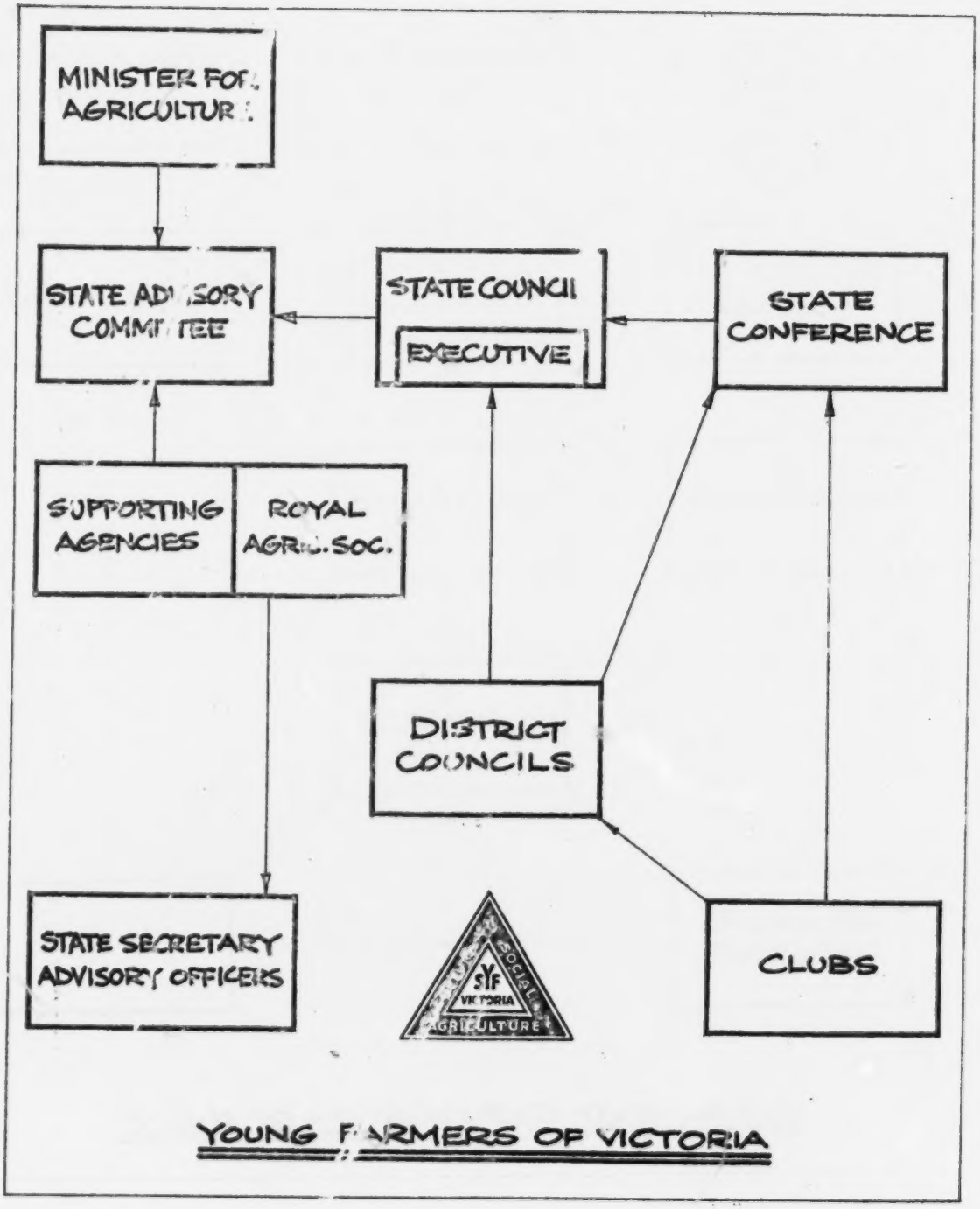
DISTRICT COUNCILS
GROUP COUNCILS
CLUB ADVISORY COMMITTEES
CLUBS
RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF N.S.W.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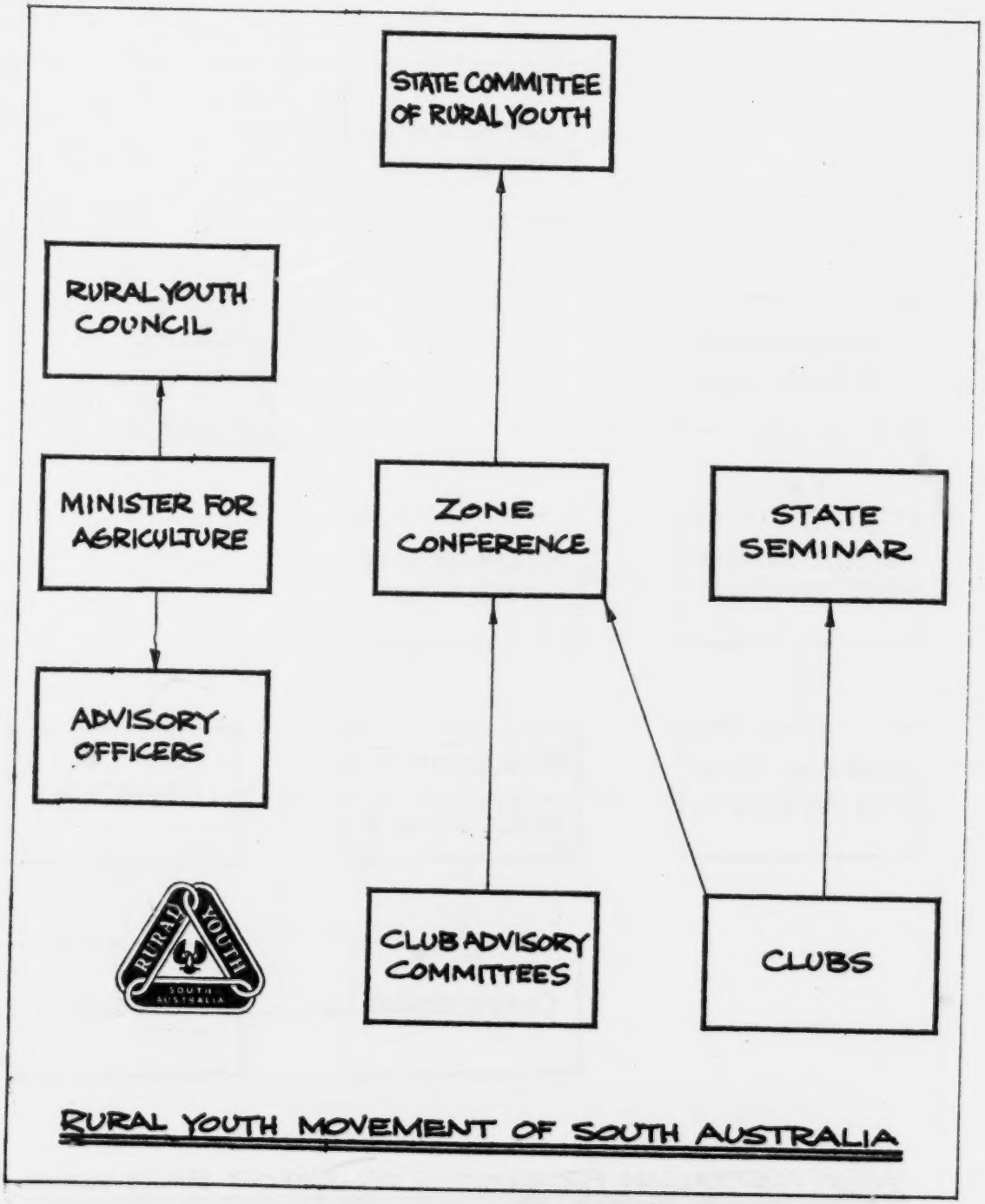
YOUNG FARMERS OF VICTORIA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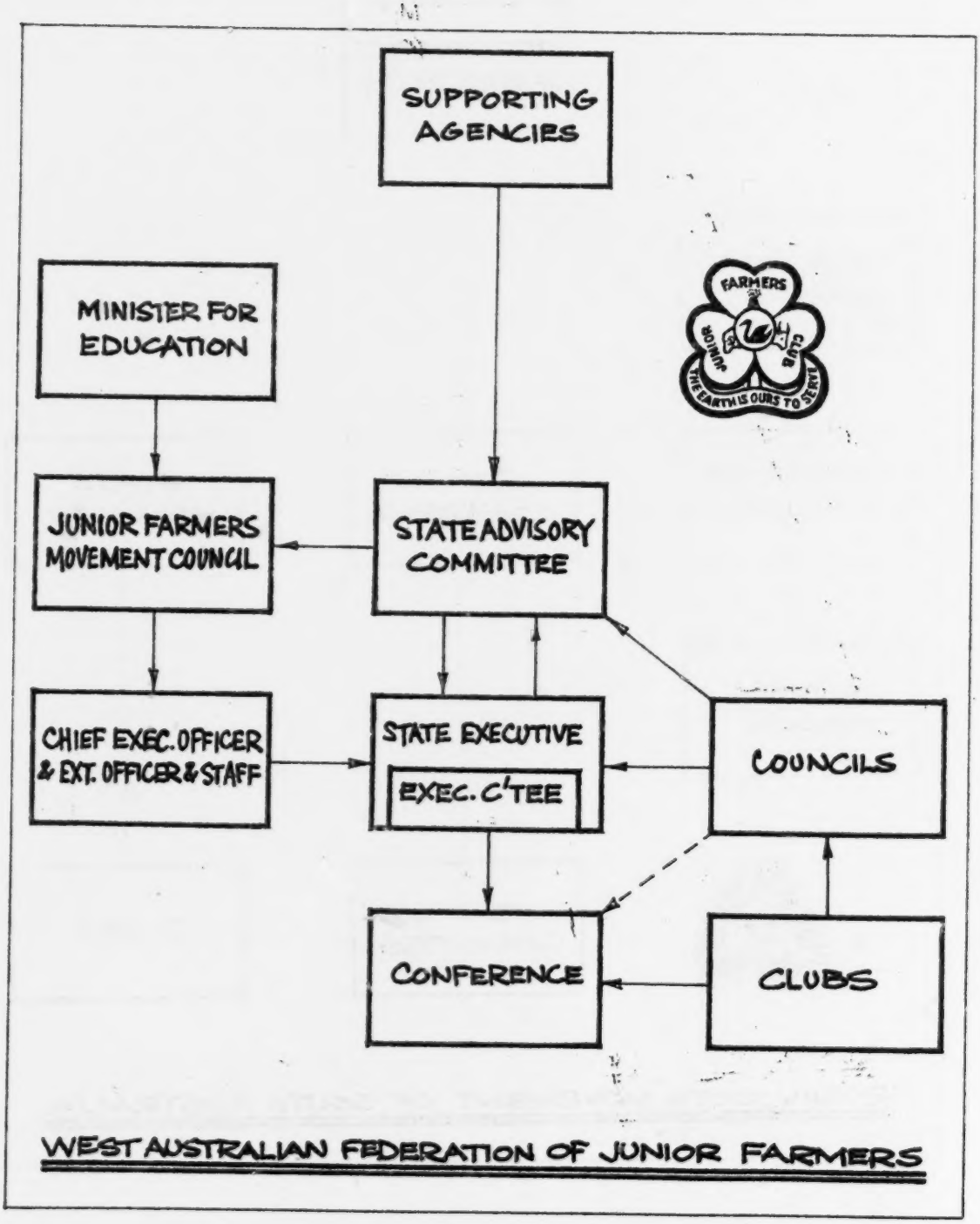
ADVISORY OFFICERS
ZONE CONFERENCE
STATE SEMINAR
CLUB ADVISORY COMMITTEES
CLUBS
RURAL YOUTH
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
RURAL YOUTH MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA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JUNIOR FARMERS MOVEMENT COUNCIL
STATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CHIEF EXEC. OFFICER & EXT. OFFICER & STAFF
STATE EXECUTIVE
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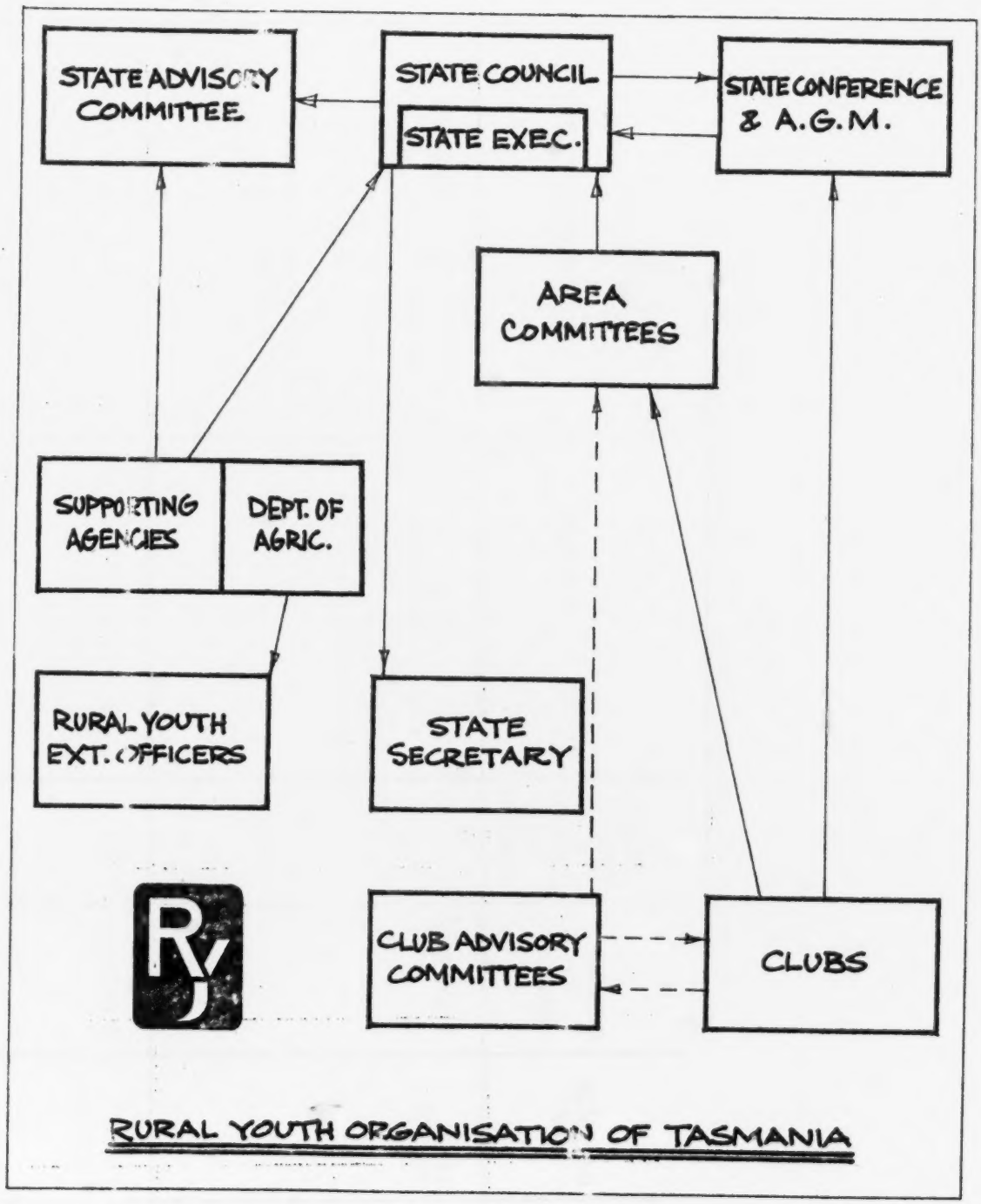
WEST AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF JUNIOR FARMERS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RURAL YOUTH EXT. OFFICERS
STATE SECRETARY
CLUB ADVISORY COMMITTEES
CLUBS
RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF TASMANIA

TABLE 1.

COMPOSITION OF GOVERNING BODIES AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

STATE	GOVERNING BODY	FREQUENCY OF MEETING	TOTAL MEMBERS & SUPPORTING MEMBERS	MEMBERS	SUPPORTING MEMBERS
Q'ld	State Council	3 per yr.	23	State Chairman 1 Deputy State Chairman 1 Area Council Chairman 10 State Conference Representatives 2 14	Immed. Past State Chairman (maybe member) 2 Life members (limited to 3 votes) 3 Chairman State Advisory Committee 1 State Advisory C'ttee. 3 State Sec./Treasurer (nominated by Ed. Dept.) 1 9
N.S.W.	State Council	3 per yr.	83	District Reps. 56 State Conference Representatives 2 58	State Organiser) Nominated Deputy State Org.) by Girls Supervisor) Ed. Dept. 3 Supervisors Association Reps. 2 Rep. of Agr. Bureau 1 Ampol 1

Composition of Governing Bodies & Frequency of Meetings

					Aust. Primary Producers Union Bank N.S.W. Commercial Bank/Australia Commercial Bank/Sydney Country Womens' Assoc. Dept. Agriculture " Conservation " Education " Tech. Education Graziers Assoc'n. Men of the Land Milk Board P. & O. Lines Primary Producers Union Royal Agric. Society of N.S.W. Rural Bank Teachers' Fed'n. United Farmers & Woolgrowers' Assoc'n. 20 25
Vic.	State Council	4 per yr.	53	State President 1 Deputy State Pres. 1 Vice President 2 Immed. Past President 1 District Council Reps. 48 53	

Composition of Governing Bodies & Frequency of Meetings

S.A.	Rural Youth Council	3 per yr.	13	State Committee Reps. 4	Director of Agriculture 1 Ministerial appointees 8 9
W.A.	State Exec.	3 per yr.	38	State President 1 Senior Vice-Pres. 1 Junior Vice-Pres. 1 Immed. Past State President 1 Council Representatives 30 34	State Advisory C'ttee Representatives 3 Executive Officer 1 4
Tas.	State Council	6 per yr.	19	State President 1 Vice-President 2 Area Committee Reps. 10 13	Representative of - Dept. of Agriculture " " Education Adult Education Board Country Womens Assoc'n. Tas. Farmers Council Associated Banks 6 6

Other State Bodies

(a) Executive Committee of governing bodies.

Each organisation (except S.A.) appoints an Executive Committee of the governing body. These committees are much smaller than the Councils, and less formal in their approach to business, meeting more frequently. They are generally responsible for the day to day management of the organisations.

TABLE 2

COMPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES
(STATE)

Queensland	State Chairman	1
	Deputy State Chairman	1
	Immediate Past State Chairman	1
	State Council Representatives	2
	Secretary/Treasurer	1
		6
N.S.W.	State President	1
	Hon. Secretary	1
	State Organiser	1
	Trustees Representative	1
	State Council Representatives	4
		8
Victoria	State President	1
	Deputy State President	1
	Vice-Presidents	2
	Immediate Past State President	1
	Council Representatives	4
		9
West Australia	State President	1
	Vice-Presidents	2
	Immediate Past State President	1
	State Advisory Committee Rep.	1
		5
Tasmania	State President	1
	Area Committee Presidents	5
		6

Much of the routine management of the Organisation in South Australia is carried out by the State Committee of Rural Youth, a body consisting of one elected representative (member) from each of the twelve Zones. Members are elected for terms of two years.

(b) State Advisory Bodies.

The Organisations in Queensland, Victoria, West Australia and Tasmania have State Advisory bodies for the broad purposes of advising the governing body on the general running of the organisations, particularly in financial matters.

They consist mainly of supporting members, meeting separately from the governing bodies, generally considering matters referred to it. There is usually provision for cross representation between the Advisory body and the governing body.

The Council for Rural Youth in South Australia fills three roles in keeping the Minister for Agriculture (who is the Chairman) informed on the activities and progress of the Organisation; acting as the most senior body in the Organisation and advising the State Committee on specific issues.

This Council consists of:-

The Minister for Agriculture (Chairman)

Four members nominated by the State Committee of Rural Youth

Eight appointees of the Minister for Agriculture.

TABLE 3

STATE ADVISORY BODIES

STATE	ADVISORY BODY	COMPOSITION	CROSS REPRESENTATION	PURPOSE AND POWERS
Q'land	State Advisory Committee	State President Representatives of sponsors, organisations and individuals nominated by State Council.	Chairman and two representatives of S.A.C. on State Council.	To advise State Council
Victoria	State Advisory Council	State President 1 Immediate Past State Pres. 1 Dept. Agriculture 2 R.A.S. of Victoria 1 C.W.A. 1 Melb. University 1 Vic. Ag. Societies 1 Parents of Young Farmers 3 Total 11	Representatives of S.A.C. on State Council	To advise Minister for Agriculture and R.A.S. on disbursement of government grant. To inform Minister for Ag. and R.A.S. on activities of the organisation.
West Australia	State Advisory Committee	Exec. Committee (State) 5 Council Advisors 30 R.A.S. of W.A. 1 C.W.A. 1 Farmers Union 1 Total 38	Representatives of S.A.C. on State Executive	To advise Federation, particularly finance. To appoint one member to the Junior Farmer Movement Council.

State Advisory Bodies

Tasmania	State Advisory Committee	State President	1	Representatives of S.A.C. on State Council	To advise the State Council.
		State Council	2		To approve amendments to the constitution.
		A.B.C.	1		To appoint trustees.
		A.N.Z. Bank			
		Bank N.S.W.	1		
		Commercial Bank Aust.	1		
		" " Sydney	1		
		Commonwealth Bank	1		
		Dept. Agriculture	1		
		" Education	1		
		E.S. & A. Bank	1		
		National Bank Aust.	1		
		National Fitness Council	1		
		Big Brother Movement	1		
		C.W.A.	1		
		Devonport A. & P. Society	1		
		National A. & P. Society	1		
		R.A.S. Tasmania	1		
		R.Y. Exchangees	1		
		Tas. Farmers Federation	1		
		Tas. Farmers, Stockowners & Orchardist Assoc'n.	1		
		Total	22		

(c) State Conferences.

All States, except South Australia, provide for an annual conference of representatives appointed by clubs. In Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania the annual conference is in fact the annual general meeting of the Organisation electing the State Office-bearers, receiving the annual report and deciding issues to be implimented by the State Council. Changes to the constitution are also effected, however, in the case of Tasmania ratification is required by the State Advisory Committee.

Decisions made by conference in Queensland, N.S.W., are received by the State Councils and maybe accepted or rejected by that body. The State Councils in these States, however, place a great deal of importance on recommendations arising from conferences.

In all States items may be placed on the agenda of conference by all levels of the organisation. It is not usual, however, for individuals to follow this procedure, items usually being endorsed by clubs, councils or committees.

Agendas are usually compiled by the governing bodies from items submitted from all sources deleting only those items which are not properly endorsed or do not come within the bounds of the Constitution. The majority of business discussed at the Conferences usually refers to the programme and administration of the Organisations, however, in Tasmania other subjects are included.[2]

[2]Many subjects refer to farming policy such as subsidies, marketing, quarantine, etc. although items of even broader interest have been included, e.g. registration of fire arms, roadside rest areas.

TABLE 4

STATE CONFERENCES

STATE	MONTH HELD	COMPOSITION	PURPOSE AND POWERS
Q'land	May	One representative per club " " District State Council Education Dept. (R.Y.Branch) two representatives	To make recommendations to State Council. To elect representatives to State Council.
N.S.W.	July	Two delegates from each club.	As for Queensland.
Victoria	July	Two delegates from each club State Executive District Council reps.	To elect the State President. Deputy State President. To receive the Annual Report. To amend the Constitution. To direct State Council.
West Australia		Two delegates from each club. State Executive Council Advisors (no vote)	As for Victoria.

State Conferences

Tasmania	March	Three delegates from each club State Council	To elect State office bearers. To receive Annual Report. To direct State Council. To elect one delegate to attend National Convention. To refer amendments to Constitution to State Advisory Committee.

Although the Rural Youth Movement in South Australia does not have a State Conference as such, it does have a series of Zone Conferences which tend to serve the same purpose. The Organisation usually holds a State Seminar which combines an educating role for members and also makes recommendations to the State Committee.

(d) State Committees.

The various State governing bodies follow the practice of appointing committees for special purposes. Both standing and ad hoc committees are used to perform special duties assigned by the governing body. For example, in Western Australia the following State Committees operated in 1969:

Boys activities	S.E. Asian Committee
Girls "	Rules & Regulations Review
Selections for Awards	Public Speaking
Junior Farmer Centre.	

The Rural Youth Organisation in Tasmania is advised by a State Education Committee on the educational content of the State programme. Although this committee is not provided for in the Constitution, it is appointed by the State Council and has affiliations with regional education committees.[3]

(e) Exchangee Associations.

Although not strictly a part of the formal structure of the organisations, there is a body in four of the States which does have some influence on the organisations. These are

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[3] See p. 35.

the "Exchangee Associations"[4] which consist of past and present members who have at some time represented the State on an official travel scholarship awarded by the rural youth organisation in that State.

Membership in Queensland and Tasmania is open to any present and past member who has received a State award and has travelled outside the home State on a travel exchange programme. This includes members who have either visited another country or another State within Australia.

In N.S.W. and South Australia however, membership is restricted to those who have travelled overseas. The Association in N.S.W. also includes winners of the Dunlop Award.[5]

The main purpose of the Associations is to provide opportunities for members to retain social contact with each other and in addition to provide a platform for the discussion of matters relevant to the travel programme of the organisation concerned.

The Associations in Tasmania and N.S.W. participate in the administration of the organisations through the provision of representatives as members of the State Councils. This link does not exist in the remaining two States.

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[4]The precise names of these are:
Queensland: Rural Youth Exchangee Association
N.S.W.: Rural Exchangees' Association
South Australia: Rural Youth Young Ambassadors
Tasmania: Rural Youth Exchangees' Association.

[5]See p. 73.

The Intermediate Levels.

Between the governing bodies and the clubs there are a number of councils, committees, etc. usually consisting of representatives from the lower levels in the organisation. The main purpose of the intermediate levels is to affect co-ordination of particular activities of groups or individuals being served by the body. The activities of these groups tend to include a wide range of interests, however, some operate for special purposes - such as the Zone Councils in West Australia carry out the selection of members from Districts for travel scholarships, and in some cases conduct drama festivals.

The number of levels vary from State to State, as do the names of each body. Generally, the number of levels are determined by the size of the organisation, both in terms of numbers of members and geographical distances.

Although there would appear to be a normal progression of representatives from one level to the next above in the structure, this does not always apply. For example, in some parts of N.S.W. there are insufficient clubs to form a Group Council. In this case, the level immediately above the clubs is the District Council. In other parts, where there are insufficient Districts to warrant an Area Council, the next level is by-passed and co-ordination is effected by the State Council.

In most States, adult advisors play an important role in the intermediate levels. In Queensland, N.S.W. and West Australia they are involved directly as supporting members

although in W.A. they do not have any voting power. Although the Zone Committees in South Australia consist of members elected from the Clubs in the Zone, provision is made for two club members plus one Advisory Committee member to take part in Zone Conferences.

The Area Committees in Tasmania, although not including supporting members, each year appoint Area advisory bodies known as Area Education Committees. Their function is twofold, to act in a general advisory capacity to the Area Committee, but in particular to organise short technical courses for members on agricultural and other subjects.[6] These Committees generally consist of club members, former members and co-opted persons with special abilities.

These Area Education Committees appoint representatives to a State Education Committee for the purposes of co-ordination.

Clubs.

To all intents and purposes, the organisations function for the benefit of the individual members. It is usual however, for the bulk of activities of members to be carried out in local geographical units called "clubs", and for this reason the club tends to be regarded as the basal unit of the organisation.

Generally, all clubs aim to provide a formalised structure to enable members living in the same geographical location to meet for the purpose of designing and carrying out activities

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[6] See "Pursuits, programmes and activities of the Rural Youth Organisations". p. 79.

TABLE 5

THE INTERMEDIATE LEVELS

STATE	NUMBER OF INTERMEDIATE LEVELS	NAMES OF INTERMEDIATE LEVELS	NUMBER OF GROUPS IN EACH LEVEL	COMPOSITION
Q'land	2	Area Councils	10	Representatives from clubs.
		District Councils	24	" " "
N.S.W.	3	Area Councils	5	Representatives from District Councils District Council representatives on State Council Area and District Supervisors
		District Councils	28	Representatives from Group Councils or Clubs
		Group Councils	21	Representatives from Clubs
Victoria	1	District Councils	24	Representatives from Clubs
South Aust.	1	Zone Committees	12	Representatives from Clubs

The Intermediate Levels.

West Aust.	2	Zone Committees	8	Representatives from Clubs.
		Councils (District)	15	Council office bearers. Representatives from Clubs. Adult Advisors (no vote).
Tasmania	1	Area Committees	5	Area office bearers. Representatives from Clubs.

which will contribute to the development, enjoyment and stimulation of the members. One organisation, the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, adds to this the objective -

> To function as a committee within a community contributing to the development of the community by involving the younger members of the community in the programme and affairs of the club.[7]

which makes an implicit responsibility to involve persons in the activities of a club irrespective of whether they are members or not.

(a) Types of Clubs.

The composition of clubs varies mainly in regard to the the ages of the members. In some States, there is a close relationship between the club and the local school and often such "school clubs" meet during school hours as a part of the normal school programme. Some of these clubs operate in conjunction with residential schools and their activities tend to be conducted out of school hours.

Most clubs however, meet as independent groups using any available hall as its base. The following type of clubs operate in Australia:

i. Open clubs - containing members of post school age (usually 16) to about 25 years. What is generally referred to as an open club in other States is called a Senior Club in N.S.W.

ii. Junior clubs - containing members 10 - 15 years.

iii. Composite clubs - containing members from 10 - 25 years.

iv. School clubs - Junior clubs attached to schools

[7] Constitution: The Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania. Clause 126.

TABLE 6

RURAL YOUTH CLUBS IN AUSTRALIA

TYPE OF CLUB:	OPERATING IN STATE:	NUMBER PER STATE:	
i. Open	Queensland	150	
	N.S.W. (Senior Clubs)	61	
	Victoria	163	
	South Australia	90	
	West Australia	80	
	Tasmania	36	
		580	580
ii. Junior[8]	Queensland	2	
	N.S.W.	67	
	South Australia	28	
		97	97
iii. Composite	N.S.W.	160	160
iv. School or College	Queensland	20	
	West Australia	14	
	South Australia	14	
		48	48
	Total clubs in Australia:		885

(b) Club Management.

Decisions are reached by members in formal meetings which require office bearers to assume the various roles of management. The meetings are normally presided over by the Club President or Chairman, who with the Secretary to record minutes and attend to correspondence, etc., the

[8] In Tasmania there is constitutional provision for "Junior Groups" for members 10 - 15 years. Although part of open clubs, these groups would meet separately and undertake independent activities. The system is in the experimental stage and two pilot groups are currently operating.

Treasurer responsible for financial transactions and their records, collectively make up the Club Executives. Other executive offices such as Patrons, Deputy Presidents, Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretary, Public Relations Officer, are often involved.

Tasmania is unique, however, in including a series of Directors as part of the Executive Committee. These Directors are in fact, responsible for special interest activities within the club, functioning with the aid of ad hoc committees, for their term of office.

The areas of interest of the Directors are:-

Vocational Training
Self Expression
Leader Training and Community Service
Social and Recreational
Public Relations

The Directorship system is also employed in N.S.W., but in contrast to their compulsory appointment in Tasmania, they are an optional extra in N.S.W. Club office bearers are normally appointed for a term of twelve months.

General meetings of clubs which all members may attend, are mostly held in the evenings (occasionally weekends) at regular intervals - e.g. monthly, bi-monthly, every second or third week, etc. Apart from the general meetings there are often separate meetings of the club executive committees and special sub-committees. At

other times members congregate for special activities as part of the club programme.

Clubs are often required to pay special levies and affiliation fees to higher councils.

The Members:

Only two restrictions are placed on the eligibility for membership - age and the requirement of paying fees. Irrespective of vocation or any other factor providing a person has access to an appropriate club, is between the defined age limits of the organisation in the State concerned, may join an organisation.

(a) Specific Age Limits.

Queensland:	On completion of Primary schooling to 26th birthday.
N.S.W.:	Junior 10th birthday to 17th birthday Senior 15th birthday to 25th birthday
Victoria:	16th birthday to 26th birthday (Technical School students may join at 14 years.)
South Australia:	Junior 11th birthday to 15th birthday Senior 15th birthday to 25th birthday
West Australia:	School Clubs: 10th birthday to school leaving. Open: School leaving to 26th birthday
Tasmania:	Junior 11th to 15th birthday. Open: 15th birthday to end of financial year in which member turns 25 years.

(b) Membership Subscriptions.

Annual subscriptions are paid by members in all States.

In South Australia and Victoria the subscriptions are

paid to the Clubs and in turn the Clubs are usually required to meet levies imposed by the governing body. In the remaining four States members' subscriptions are forwarded to the Head Office either by the individual member or Club Secretaries acting on their behalf. The following membership subscription rates prevailed in 1969/70:

Queensland:	School and junior members	.50 cent
	Members under 18 years	$2.00
	Members over 18 years	$2.50
N.S.W.:	10 - 15 years	.20
	16 - 20 years	1.50
	21 - 25 years	2.00
Victoria:	Determined by individual Clubs.	
South Australia:	" " " "	
West Australia:	School clubs	.50
	Open clubs	3.00
Tasmania:	Open clubs	3.00
	Junior groups	.20

(c) Responsibilities of Membership.

Implicit in the Constitutions of all the Organisations is the requirement that members shall behave in such a way as to avoid bringing discredit to the Organisations. Adequate provision exists for the expulsion of members guilty of misconduct. The availability of alcohol at any function organised by a club or any other level of the Organisation is specifically banned in the Constitutions of all States except South Australia and West Australia. A major condition of membership is made in N.S.W. in that all members are required to carry out a "project".[9]

[9] See Pursuits Programmes and Activities, p. 64.

(d) Lone members.

Although it is usual for young people to effect membership of an organisation through affiliation with a local club, in some instances this is not possible due to the geographical isolation. The Organisations in Queensland, N.S.W. and West Australia provide for "lone members" in such cases, requiring the payment of the usual membership subscriptions and in return being entitled to some of the normal advantages of membership.

In Queensland, lone members receive all the privileges of membership, and in addition receive individual correspondence and training courses to suit the individual. Direct contact is made through School of the Air and the Flying Doctor network.[10]

The Organisation in N.S.W. provides for distributing all relevant printed material to lone members and an effort is made by Superricors to make occasional visits as the opportunities arise. They are kept informed of any possible competition and are entitled to apply or to attend functions organised by the Organisation.[11]

Although these provisions exist there are in fact, very few lone members. Current enrolments total 20 members, in Queensland.

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[10] Letter from Ted Dobbs, District Organiser Rural Youth Organisation, Queensland. December 2, 1970.

[11] Letter from W. Tearle, State Organiser Rural Youth Council of N.S.W. December 2, 1970.

(e) Membership Statistics.

Attempts made in the past to obtain accurate membership statistics have been fraught with difficulty. An attempt was made in 1966 by representatives from each organisation attending a national gathering in Victoria. Each State estimated their memberships at that time as follows:-

TABLE 7

Queensland:

		% Male	% Female	% Total
Queensland:				
Total membership 4,000				
13 - 15 years	440	5	6	11
16 - 21 years	3080	44	33	77
22 - 25 years	480	9	3	12
		58%	42%	100
N.S.W.:				
Total membership 6,322				
10 - 15 years		33	27	60
16 - 20 years		17	13	30
21 - 25 years		7	3	10
		57%	43%	100
Victoria:				
Total membership 4,488				
14 - 15 years	236	2	3	5
16 - 21 years	3100	42	27	69
22 - 25 years	1152	16	10	26
		60%	40%	100
South Australia:				
Total membership 5,160				
11 - 15 years	1360			48
16 - 25 years	3800			52
		65%	35%	100

West Australia:	% Male	% Female	% otal
Total membership 1,850			
15 years			4
16 - 20 years			79
21 - 25 years			17
			100
Tasmania:			
Total membership 1,200			
15 - 17 years			26
18 - 21 years			50
22 - 25 years			24
	60%	40%	100

Total membership Australia: 23,020.

A further attempt was made in 1969 at a similar gathering in West Australia. At that time the Tasmanian organisation submitted the following statistics.

TABLE 8

MEMBERSHIP OF THE
RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATION OF TASMANIA
AS AT 16th MAY '69

Ages	MALES		FEMALES		ALL MEMBERS
	% of Males	% of all members	% of females	% of all members	%
14 years	0.63	0.35	3.20	1.40	1.75
15	4.37	2.46	10.66	4.69	7.13
16	9.58	5.38	13.60	5.96	11.35
17	17.50	9.82	20.27	8.89	18.71
18	18.75	10.53	12.80	5.61	16.14
19	13.96	7.84	13.87	6.08	13.92
20	10.42	5.85	11.20	4.91	10.76

	MALES		FEMALES		ALL MEMBERS
	% of Males	% of all Members	% of females	% of all members	%
21 years	9.58	5.38	5.33	2.34	7.72
22	7.08	3.98	6.40	2.81	6.78
23	4.79	2.69	1.87	0.82	3.51
24	3.33	1.87	0.53	0.23	2.11
25	0.00	0.00	0.27	0.12	0.12
Length of Membership:					
0 - 1 year	45.63	25.61	54.93	24.09	49.70
1 - 2 years	16.66	9.36	19.47	8.54	17.89
2 - 3 "	10.00	5.61	11.20	4.91	10.53
3 - 4 "	8.54	4.79	4.23	1.87	6.67
4 - + "	19.17	10.76	10.13	4.44	15.20
Occupations:					
Farm	54.17	30.41	11.73	5.15	35.56
Non-farm	37.71	21.17	69.33	30.41	51.58
Students	8.13	4.56	18.93	8.30	12.87
Total Membership: 1.182	MALES 56.14% FEMALES 43.86%				

No other State organisation was able to submit comparative figures, however, those presented permitted Table to be compiled in respect of the year 1968/69.

TABLE 9

AGE GROUPINGS IN STATE ORGANISATIONS

(1968/69)

	N.S.W.	TASMANIA	VICTORIA	WEST AUSTRALIA
	%	%	%	%
14 - 16	51 (interval 10-15)	20	6	6
17 - 20	40 (interval 16-20)	60	57	57
21 - 25	9	20	37	37

The most recent statistics available are:-[12]

TABLE 10

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS - 1969

Queensland: Total membership: 2,800 - 3,000.

N.S.W.: Age groups as percentage of total (1969).

	10 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boys:	1679	31.7	925	17.5	397	7.5	3021	56.7
Girls:	1417	26.7	658	12.4	212	4.0	2277	43.1
Total:	3096	58.4	1583	29.9	609	11.5	5298	100

Victoria:	Under 18		18 - 20		21 - 25		Total	
Boys:	518)	20.7	1126)	43.3	1055)	36.0	2699	61.6
Girls:	387)		759)		532)		1678	38.4
Total:	905		1885		1587		4377	100

[12] I am indebted to Mr. A.J. Keys, Deputy State Secretary, Y.F.C. in Victoria for his assistance in compiling this table.

Membership Statistics - 1969:

South Australia: Total membership: 5,800.

Senior Clubs: 3,600
College Clubs: 800 (14-18 years)
Junior Clubs: 1,400 (12-15 years)

West Australia: Total membership: 1,850

Tasmania: Total membership: 1,118

	10 - 15		16 - 20		21 - 25		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Boys:	21	2.5	348	41.5	118	14.2	487	58.2
Girls:	46	5.4	262	31.1	44	5.3	352	41.8
Total:	67	7.9	610	72.6	162	19.5	839	100

Total Australian membership: 21,443

Whilst those figured serve as a guide to membership they by no means tell the full story. They represent in fact, the numbers actually paying membership subscriptions only and do not account for:-

(a) Persons actually engaged in the programmes of the organisations, but who have not paid subscriptions, and

(b) Persons involved with the programmes on a casual basis such as the community youth in Tasmania involved for special interests only,

and

(c) The supporting members of the organisations such as advisors and representatives of other organisations, etc. serving as State Councillors, etc.

It is therefore probable that the total number of persons in Australia involved with the rural youth programme annually could exceed the Australian membership figure by as much as 25%.[13]

There is however, another facet to be considered. The numbers enrolled in each State organisation shown in the previous tables represent the total enrolments over a period of 12 months. They do not account for persons joining and leaving the organisations in the same year, nor for persons deriving little benefit from the organisations as the result of enrolling late in the year. Considering the fact that enrolments continue throughout the year, it is probable that the statistics given represent the total numbers which have had some encounter with the organisation, i.e. the total numbers involved in the programmes over a period, as opposed to membership at a particular time.

Club Advisors and Advisory Committees:

Members in all States except Victoria are assisted by voluntary advisors. In some instances advisors act on an individual basis, in others the Constitution provides for a formalised Advisory Committee, functioning in association with a club and occasionally

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[13]This figure has been checked with all State Organisations and is generally conceded to be a conservative estimate.

Area Councils. Advisors are often former members who have passed the compulsory retiring age of 25 or 26, wishing to retain an interest in the organisation, and/or parents, local enthusiasts, etc. All advisors are over the retiring age of 25 or 26.

Some States follow the procedure of electing club advisors to higher levels in the organisation, even to the extent of serving on the governing bodies. As the name suggests, voluntary advisors assist members in an advisory rather than directive manner. For example, in South Australia the role of the Advisory Committee has been defined:-

1. To arrange for representation at all Club functions.
2. To assist with the organisation of programmes.
3. To take an enthusiastic interest in Club affairs.
4. To provide help and guidance to the Club.
5. To provide help and guidance to individual Club officers and members.[14]

The Rural Youth in Tasmania adds a special responsibility of Advisory Committees -

> To appoint shadow officers to teach, guide and/or assist the office bearers of the Club's Executive Committee to carry out their duties as efficiently as possible.[15]

(a) Numbers of Advisors and Councillors:

Attempts to arrive at any worthwhile estimate of the number of voluntary advisors in Australia have been virtually fruitless. The Rural Youth Organisation in N.S.W. appears to be the only organisation maintaining records. The

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[14] A.T. Hooper (Ed.) Know Your Movement. (Adelaide: Dept. of Agriculture, undated).

[15] Constitution of Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania: Clause 180.

State Organiser's Annual Report to State Council for the twelve months ended 31 December 1968 lists 730 "official voluntary helpers". No information is available from the remaining organisations.

(b) Management of Committees:

As far as can be determined Advisory Committees are managed by the usual office bearers of President (or Chairman), Secretary and Treasurer. Little information is available on the frequency of their meetings, other than annual meetings appear to be mandatory, other meetings being held as required. Specifically, the Constitutions provide:-

in Queensland: each Club and Area Council must have an Advisory Committee. Advisors have no voting power nor can they hold office at Club or Area meetings;

in N.S.W.: each Club should have adult persons as advisors, counsellors or leaders.

Advisory Committees may be formed as adjuncts to Junior and Composite Clubs.

A Leader (over 21) shall be appointed to Junior and Composite Clubs.

Each Senior Club shall appoint Counsellors (one male and /or female).

Advisors or Advisory Committees shall be represented on any Group Council which embraces the area in which the Club is located.

In Victoria: no provision for Advisors nor Councillors.

In South Australia: "The part played by the Adult Advisory Committee is basic to the functioning of the Club."

In West Australia: Adult Advisors shall be over the age of 25 years.

Advisory Committee - help arrange for practical advice ..
" " systematic inspection of project work.
" " field days, demonstrations ...

Clubs shall be represented on Councils (District) by three members and one Adult Advisor.

State Executive shall include three Advisors.

State Advisory Committee shall include one man and one woman advisor from each Council.

Council Advisors may attend Annual Conference, without voting power.

In Tasmania: Advisory Committees may be formed to assist Clubs. The Chairman of the Committee shall be an ex-officer member of the Club Executive Committee or the Area Committee.

(c) Appointment of Advisors and Councillors:

The constitutional requirements for the appointment of Advisors and Advisory Committees is rather vague. The Queensland Constitution makes no reference to their appointment - merely "each club and Area Council must have ....."

N.S.W.: no specific reference to the appointment of Committees. Leaders and Counsellors are appointed by the Clubs with the approval or endorsement of the District Supervisor.

South Australia: members of the Adult Advisory Committee are elected annually by the Club members.

West Australia: Club Advisors and Advisory Committees shall be invited to take office by the Club.

Tasmania: Initial formation may be taken by adults wishing to encourage the establishment of a Club. In the event of the Committee ceasing to operate, the Club may act to appoint a Committee.

Lines of Communication:

Whilst the previous structure charts indicated the positions of the various levels and associated bodies, in terms of the point of origin of the members of each group, they gave no indication of the normal lines of communication between them. There have been attempts to combine these channels with heirarchy[16] and cross representation, but the results have been so complex as to render them virtually useless.

Nevertheless, it could be construed that for example, the members and clubs merely function to carry out the directives of the governing bodies or, on the other hand, that communication between members and the governing bodies are received only after

[16] In the sense of groups directing, and groups implementing.

they have successfully negotiated the synapses of the intermediate levels. Both propositions are, paradoxically neither right nor wrong for they must be considered in the light of what is happening at the time.

Communication from members to the governing bodies:

A member in any of the rural youth organisations in Australia may communicate directly with the State Council (or its equivalent), the Secretary of the Council or the Manager of the Head Office. In fact, it is quite usual for members to seek information or order merchandise in this way. It is also worth noting that a considerable amount of correspondence passes between members of kindred organisations however, in instances of a member contacting the Head Office of another organisation, it is usual for a copy of the reply from that office being forwarded to the Head Office of the State originating the matter.

On the other hand, a great deal of the communicating between members and the Head Office is carried out by Club Secretaries following the adoption of a resolution by the Club concerned to act in a particular way. Often items affecting the organisation as a whole are referred to the intermediate levels to obtain support on a wider basis.

From members to advisory officers:

Once again no restrictions are placed upon either members or groups to communicate directly with advisory officers. It is usual, however, to patronise the services available in the region in which the member resides. For example, a member in the Lismore

district of N.S.W. would be expected to contact the advisors based in Lismore rather than say, Tamworth. If however, such an approach was made it would be usual for the contacted advisor to send copies of his replies to the local officer for information purposes. In some instances it could be necessary to refer a member to the local officer (e.g. the local officer may not be known to the member, or the problem outside the scope or unknown by the advisor contacted).

From governing bodies to members:

Membership in all the organisations is, of course, on a voluntary basis and as such any person or group is free to decide whether or not any directive handed down by a governing body, or higher level, will be accepted and acted upon. The rejection of some directives would automatically terminate membership on the basis that membership was conditional upon the acceptace of some directives. Examples of this situation would be the matter of the payment of membership subscriptions and special levies and in N.S.W., the requirement of members to carry out educational projects.

Generally speaking however, activities provided by the organisations are offered the members on the understanding it is their privilege to participate or not.

When a governing body decides to introduce a competitive activity, it is usual for heats of the event to be conducted by the intermediate levels, so that a member might be required to pass through a series of contests before reaching a State final.[17]

[17] Contests at the various levels involve the winners of previous heats conducted at lower levels.

In these cases the governing bodies would communicate directly with all levels requiring them to effect a form of selection by prescribed dates.

Communication is effected in this way both by correspondence and by the publication of magazines and newsletters circulated to all members. The cost of these publications is met from part of membership subscriptions, advertising and the general funds of the organisation. The following publications are distributed:

Landmark, official magazine of the Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland. Production by the Indooroopilly Rural Youth Club; printed by Edwards and Middleton Pty. Ltd., Brisbane. (Monthly magazine).

Rural Youth, official organ of the Rural Youth Council of N.S.W. Edited by W. Tearle; printed by The Land Printing House. (Bi-monthly magazine).

The Young Farmer, official publication of the Victorian Young Farmers. Production by an editorial committee appointed by State Council and published by Central Publicity, Victoria; printed by Abaris Printing and Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd., Melbourne. (Monthly magazine).

Generation, (West Australia) Produced by a voluntary committee; printed by Alpha Print Pty. Ltd., Perth. (Monthly News sheet)

Newsletterof the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania. Edited by K.V. Topfer; printed by the Organisation (monthly news sheet, Gestetner duplicated).

From advisory officers to members:

The main point of contact for the advisory officers in communicating with members is meetings, either of clubs or the intermediate levels. Advisory officers usually apply a considerable of effort behind the scenes arranging matters relating to the meetings and following up interests and decisions arising in the meetings.

It is usual for advisory officers to maintain a relatively passive role during meetings but ensuring the meetings function in line with the objectives and customs of the organisation; members are informed of recent decisions from higher levels and events which should be provided for in the programmes of activities. The advisory officer thus has an important role in effecting communication within the organisation.

Face-to-face relationships with members vary from State to State depending upon the availability of advisory officers [18] and the philosophy of the organisation concerned. In broad terms however, the effectiveness of an advisory officer is directly related to his ability to establish rapport with members, but this does not mean that all actions are condoned. Needs arise for the advisory officer to perform an inspectorial role, e.g. in the allocation of awards and as a disciplinarian in the apparent interests of the member and the organisation.

Between advisory officers:

Reference will be made [19] to the opportunities available

[18] The number of personal contacts between members and advisory officers to a large extent depends upon distances to be travelled and the ratio of members to officers.

[19] See p. 106.

to advisory officers to meet on state and national bases for various forms of in-service training. Besides these however, close liaison is maintained between the senior officers in each State through the Australian Council of Rural Youth[20] and on a personal basis.

Within the States there are fairly clearly defined lines of responsibility and communication determined by the employing authority. In this way the decisions of the governing bodies are interpreted by the senior advisory officer in the light of the policies of the employing authority and passed on to the subordinate officers.

From advisory officers to the organisations:

In the main, the advisory officers act as consultants to all levels of the rural youth organisation with which they are associated. Two exceptions however, are evident. In N.S.W. the Supervisors' Association is represented in its own right on the State Council and thus exercises a managerial and decision making influence apart from the State Organiser; and in South Australia where there is a close relationship between the Department of Agriculture and the Rural Youth Movement through the Council for Rural Youth, which is presided over by the Minister for Agriculture. In that instance the decisions of the Council are automatically implemented by the Senior Advisor and his staff.

Between members:

Obviously the opportunities for members to communicate with each other at the local level through personal contact, are extensive. Besides these formal and informal opportunities however,

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[20] See p. 114.

it is worth mentioning that a great number of clubs and other groups within the organisations follow the procedure of issuing newsletters and circulars to members. These fill the dual role of keeping members informed and promoting the organisation and particularly the local group, to the community at large.

III.

PURSUITS, PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

The six Rural Youth Organisations in Australia accept as their common aim "To encourage and assist rural youth to become self-reliant, responsible and effective citizens." Whilst it is not intended in this study to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities of the organisations in relation to this aim, an attempt will be made to identify the activities undertaken by the organisations in their efforts to achieve the goal.

Implicit in the aim is the very substance of the organisations. They are in fact, educative in their endeavours to develop the youthful members of the organisations. This is attempted in two broad ways:-

1. By providing an organisation in which opportunities are provided for the members to take an active part in its management and administration. Reference was made earlier to the various levels of the organisations. Each of these provide opportunities for members to assume leader roles by filling executive and directive positions.

   By providing this facility of "self government" members are able to utilise executive and managerial skills acquired through their experience as members.

2. By providing a range of activities in line with the needs and interests of members aimed at providing incentives and rewards for participating; providing avenues for the member

to acquire skills and experience; providing recognition for those who have acquired approved levels of proficiency.

It must be appreciated there is no standard programme of activities for the rural youth organisations in Australia. Indeed, even the activities in each State differ according to local needs and the part played by the level in the organisation. A Club for example, could be defined as the corporate structure of a group of members concerned with satisfying needs and wants of the members through collective action. In this respect members combine for activities more or less of local interest only, but in addition participate in the overall programme of the organisation.

On the other hand, the governing bodies of the organisation have two principal functions. To promote the organisation, and to provide specific activities to involve members.

The activities of members in clubs thus tend to be a mixture of local events with other activities selected from the programme of the organisation.

It is therefore necessary to identify both local and organisational activities which, with the general running of the organisations, collectively make up the pursuits, programmes and activities of the rural youth organisations in Australia.

Local Activities:

(a) of Clubs -

The pivot around which all club activities seem to revolve is the "general" or "business" meeting. These are usually held in the evening on a monthly basis (more frequently in some places),

with all members being entitled to take part. The main part of the meeting is concerned with managing the business and activities of the club, by popular decision, however, other activities are often included as part of the overall evening programme.

"After meeting" activities include visitors to the Club, invited for a special purpose such as a guest speaker, demonstrator, speaker with films, discussion leader, etc. In this type of activity the member tends to assume a relatively passive role, although many visitors aim to involve members more actively.

This situation is more or less opposed to the activity involving some or all of the members in a more active role, as the main participants. In this case, members could be involved in exercises in public speaking, demonstrating, role playing, amateur dramatics, games and other social type activities.

Other activities are conducted at times and places distinct from the "business" meeting. As the West Australian Federation of Junior Farmers puts it

> It is most important to bear in mind that everything should not be held on the meeting night. The meeting is purely the device which makes all other functions possible.[1]

Probably the best way of illustrating the types of activities undertaken by clubs is to give some examples:-[2]

1. After meeting activity.

Initiators	Methods employed	Some Subjects
Visiting authorities	Lectures	Animal husbandry
	Forums	Agriculture
	Symposium panel	Home science

[1] Helen Langley et al., Introducing Junior Farmers. (Perth: The Junior Farmer Movement Council, 1970) p.14.

[2] Extracted freely from the Handbooks of the rural youth organisations in Australia.

Initiators	Methods employed	Some subjects
	Group interviews	Crafts Vocational subjects
	Demonstrations	Community affairs
	Discussion groups	Local and State
	Role playing	Government
(ii) Members	Talks	
	Demonstrations	
	Discussion groups	
	Dances, socials	
	Debates, demonstrations, public speaking	
	Physical fitness; games	
	Craft work	
	Dramatics	

2. Activities at other times and places.

(i) Farm visits
Excursions; educational travel
Field days
Judging competitions
Schools and short courses
Symposia
Participation in agricultural shows

(ii) Dances, balls
Interclub visits
Car rallies
Barbecues and camps
Amateur dramatics
Sports - carnivals, football, etc.

(iii) Community service

It will be apparent the subjects given could be subdivided to provide a wider range of activities, for example the number of farm visits undertaken by a club could only be limited by the number of available farms.

Reference to the various handbooks and pamphlets of the organisations suggests the scope and range to be almost limitless, with the final selection of activities undertaken by any club in Australia being limited to the imagination of the programmers and the resources available.

All organisations stress the importance of presenting varied and interesting activities without any restrictions on the subject matter. There is a discernable bias towards rural and home science type subjects although these constitute only a proportion of the overall programmes.

The Victorian Young Farmers do however, stipulate three avenues of activity, viz., Agriculture, Culture and Social; the Tasmanian Rural Youth Organisation, through its system of Directors categorises its activities, viz., Vocational Training; Social and Recreation; Self Expression; Leadership; Public Relations; for the sake of placing the responsibility of organisation on the shoulders of a particular Director and committee.

(b) of Members -

In most States, the activities of members is usually in association with other members in some form of group activity. In N.S.W. however, a great deal of importance is placed upon the need to carry out individual projects. Constitutionally

> No person shall be considered a member of the Rural Youth Club unless he has paid the prescribed fees and embarked on an approved project.[3]

Although a considereble amount of information on individual-projects such as the purpose, procedure, technical information and judging, is available in N.S.W., it is difficult to find a clear definition of a project. One booklet, Learning by Doing says -

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[3] Constitution of the Rural Youth Organisation of N.S.W. Clause 189.

> "The idea behind the project is that each Junior Farmer (Rural Youth member) will learn by doing, and be able to demonstrate to others what he has learnt and done.[4]

The project system has been employed in other States in previous years[5]. Literature available at the time gave these definitions:

> A project is an activity with written records, carried out by a Junior Farmer to encourage interest and efficiency on the farm and in the home .... it implies the accumulation of knowledge and experience through active participation. Learning to do, by doing.[6]

> A project is a planned undertaking or study, calling for constructive thought and action on a definite subject or piece of research.

> A project could be described as some specific activity undertaken for the purpose of increasing our knowledge and efficiency - an activity which is pursued in an orderly manner, usually according to a planned sequence and concerning which records are maintained. The record keeping is important, for it is from the information thus compiled that we measure our efficiency and pin point successes and failures.[7]

The important point is perhaps, that projects require individual effort and although the system has an in-built component to share knowledge and experiences with fellow members, the work must be regarded as an important programme activity for members, particularly in the N.S.W. organisation.

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[4] Learning by Doing: A summary of Junior Farmer Projects in N.S.W. (Sydney: The Rural Bank, undated) p.5

[5] The first Constitution of the Junior Farmers Clubs of Tasmania (1950) listed compulsory project work as a requirement of membership.

[6] K.V. Topfer & J.W. Hales, "Projects", Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture, Vol. XXXIII No. 1 Feb. 1962, p.84

[7] Projects, Handbook leaflet No. 6, (by the W.A. Federation of Junior Farmers, undated)

Projects in N.S.W. are fostered to a large degree, mainly through the efforts of the Supervising staff as an important educating medium. Extensive pamphlets have been prepared for members setting out the purpose and action to be taken in putting it into practice. Supervisors maintain a continuing surveillance of members project work, offering counselling and advice or indicating sources of technical information for members, in instances they are unable to supply it themselves.

Current literature of this type, is available in N.S.W. on the following projects:-[8]

Sheep and fat lambs
Wool research
Working dogs
Poultry - foundation
advanced
commercial
Turkey raising

Irrigated winter cereals
Cotton growing
Wheat, oats and barley
Maize
Sugarcane
Strawberry culture
Vegetable growing
Potato growing
Trace elements
Seed collecting
Grasses and weeds collecting
Lucerne seed production

Meteorology
Soil conservation
Economic entomology

Home improvements
Needlework and dressmaking
Beautification of home grounds
Cake icing, decorating, confectionery
Floral arrangement

Horsemastership
Bees
Livestock judging
Dairy doe and kid
Beef cattle
Pig raising
Heifer and bull rearing

Pineapple growing
Peanut growing
Vine growing
Citrus growing
Banana growing
Pawpaw growing
Passionfruit
Mushroom
Tree planting
Vegetable seed production
Pasture improvement
Lucerne growing
Horticulture

Farm welding
Tractors
Farm management
Rock collecting

Home management
Handcrafts
Bottling and preserving
cookery
Good grooming

[8] See Learning by Doing, Op. cit., for a summary of projects. Individual pamphlets are also available for the projects listed.

State Activities;

Whilst it is important to stress the objective of the organisations, at all their levels, to involve individuals in self improvement programmes it is also important to stress the methods by which members are involved.

In the previous section some indication was given of the types of activities organised by clubs throughout Australia and the importance placed on individual project work by members in N.S.W.

It is necessary now to turn to those activities offered the members; what the Queensland Organisation calls the 'Cafeteria' system[9], by the Organisations. The phrase 'cafeteria system' is appropriate for it conveys not only the concept of an offer, but also the prerogative of making a selection on the part of clubs and members.

The process by which the governing bodies arrive at a decision to arrange a particular activity is by no means straight forward. The original proposal that a particular need exists, could arrive at the State Council table from many sources. It could have originated with an individual member who gained the support of his club and higher levels of the organisation, or from a resolution from the Annual Conference. Or action initiated by a member of the governing body, gaining its support and adoption after referral to other levels of the organisation. Or in another instance resulting from some emerging need identified by a supporting agency.

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[9] Official Handbook: of the Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland, Cp.cit., p.15

As the result of pressures such as these, the organisations have instituted activities some of which have been included on an annual basis, for a considerable number of years[10]. This is not to suggest that once an activity has been introduced it remains for ever more. One of the main functions of the governing bodies is to review the effectiveness of particular activities and make changes according to changing needs. So that State programmes, in a great number of instances change from year to year, and activities listed here will be those undertaken in recent times and may or may not be carried out in future years.

Travel Programmes:

Each of the Organisations devotes a considerable amount of effort organising travel scholarships for members, each year. The scholarships are usually conducted on a reciprocal basis with another kindred organisation in another country or State, although the exchange of members may not necessarily take place at the same time.

The tours are financed by direct sponsorship,[11] from fuunds of the organisation or through member contributors with the host organisation usually meeting the costs associated with travel and accommodation within the State or country being visited.[12]

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[10] Research is needed to determine how particular activities originated and how many times they have been repeated, particularly in relation to changing needs.

[11] See financial arrangements p. 90.

[12] Occasionally commercial sponsorships include an amount to meet travel and other costs incurred in the place being visited.

In the main, members live with member families working on the properties visited and being shown local points of interest by the hosting family or members of the local club.

The major travel awards:

1. The United Kingdom. For the past twelve years the P. & O. Steamship Lines have provided sponsorship for a team of six Rural Youth members to visit the United Kingdom for a study tour lasting approximately eight months. The team, consisting of one member from each State, usually visits England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

   By way of reciprocation the Young Farmers' organisations in the United Kingdom send a team of six to Australia for six months under similar sponsorship.

   At the conclusion of the tour, the Australian members submit a written report and are interviewed for the purpose of allocating a special P. & O. award to one of the members. This special award can be taken up either in the form of a tertiary education scholarship (usually University) or a cash award of $2,000 for an approved farm or home development activity. The P. & O. sponsorship also includes an amount of $1,200 of which $200 is made available to each State Organisation each year, awarded to the most successful club.

2. United States of America. The National 4-H Foundation in the U.S.A. has since the early 1950's sponsored a travel programme known as International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE). The programme involves exchanging members with approximately 100

countries each year, including Australia.

At various times the Australian organisations have sent two members to the U.S.A. depending upon the availability of sponsorships, in exchange for counterparts from the U.S.A. visiting Australia.

The tour lasts approximately six months, exchangees dividing the time between two States.

Both the U.K. and U.S.A. travel scholarships are arranged by the Australian Council of Rural Youth, which arranges a foster of participating States.

3. New Zealand. All organisations in Australia exchange members with New Zealand each year.

As there are separate organisations in that country for male and female members (Country Girls' Clubs, Young Farmers' Clubs) most States send a male and a female member to be hosted by the respective organisations. Tasmania, however, rosters its selections on the basis of a female representative every third year.

4. Italy. In recent times the N.S.W. Organisation has procured a sponsorship from the Fiat industrial group, enabling a member to visit Italy for a tour of three to four weeks. There is no provision for reciprosity.

5. Canada. The N.S.W. Organisation exchanges a member each year with kindred organisations in Ontario, Canada.

The visit usually lasts three months after which the winner usually returns to Australia via Europe.

6. The N.S.W. 'Star Award'. A further travel scholarship available only to members in N.S.W. Through sponsorship provided by the Rural Bank of N.S.W. a member is selected each year to visit the U.K. and U.S.A. for a study tour lasting six months. Usually the recipient spends a similar time in both countries.

7. Interstate Visits. All organisations in Australia exchange members for study tours and other special events. The Queensland, N.S.W., South Australia and West Australian Organisations conduct an annual Show Camp in conjunction with the major Agricultural Show to which members from other States are invited. The visiting members usually stay on in the State as guests of the organisation for tours lasting four to six weeks. It is usual for States to send one member, however in the case of the Royal Sydney Show Camp about thirty members from N.S.W. and two from the remaining States participate.

   Other visits are made to attend specific events such as State Conferences and the Orange National Farm Machinery Field Day in N.S.W. Most organisations arrange interstate bus tours from time to time enabling thirty to sixty members to visit other States, often staying with members in the States visited. These tours however, are usually arranged by Clubs or District/Area Councils, and made available to members in local areas or districts rather than to the State as a whole.

TABLE 11

ANNUAL TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS
STATE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Place Visited	State Providing the Scholarship	Numbers of Members Taking Part	Length of Study Tour
U.K.	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania	Team of 6 (one from each State)	7-8 months
U.S.A.	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania	Currently one representative from a nominated State	6-7 months
N.Z.	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania	1 female, 1 male " " " " " " " " 1 only (female in every third year)	9-12 weeks " " " " "
Canada	N.S.W.	1 only	3 months
Italy	N.S.W.	1 only	2-3 weeks
Queensland	N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia W. Australia Tasmania	1 male, 1 female 1 only " " "	6-8 weeks " " " "
N.S.W.	Queensland) Victoria) S. Australia) W. Australia) Tasmania)	1 male, 1 female from each State attending Sydney Show Camp, concurrently.	1-4 weeks
Victoria	N.S.W. W. Australia	1 member attending State Conference	1 week

Annual Travel Scholarships - State Rural Youth Organisations:

S. Australia	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria W. Australia Tasmania	1 member from each State attending Adelaide Show Camp, concurrently	1-8 weeks
W. Australia	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia Tasmania	1 member from each State attending Perth Show Camp, concurrently	6-8 weeks
Tasmania	Queensland N.S.W. Victoria S. Australia W. Australia	1 member " " " "	6-8 weeks 3-4 " " 6-8 weeks "

Competitive Activities:

Considerable emphasis is placed upon competitive activities within the various organisations. In one sense the travel programmes outlined previously may be regarded as competitive insofar as members compete against each other for the various awards. There is a number of other activities however, for which awards other than travel scholarships, are provided. These usually require a particular skill on the part of the competitor, awards often being made to the most proficient. These include:-

1. The Dunlop Awards. Dunlop Australia Limited provides $30,000 annually on the basis of $5,000 for each of the six State Organisations. This is made available in all States except West Australia primarily to assist a

member or members "to get a start in farming".[13]

Although conditions vary slightly from State to State, the major awards made to date have been mainly concerned with rural production. A considerable number of minor awards however, have been made mainly to assist female members in home making pursuits.

In each instance members submit a written application setting out in detail how the award would be utilised, if won. The awards are made according to the general worthiness of the application and the applicant. The latter, usually in terms of involvement and service within the organisation concerned. Applications and candidates are assessed by Special Dunlop Awards Committees; appointed by the organisation in conjunction with Dunlop.

The remaining organisation, West Australia, has not to date made any specific awards to individual members. The Dunlop funds have been used "...to initiate and implement programmes which will be of direct benefit to the majority of members."[14] As such, the funds have been applied mainly to situation analyses and research aimed at assisting the extension activities within the organisation.

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[13]This concept was outlined by the Chief General Manager of Dunlop, Mr. Eric Dunshea in announcing the inauguration of the Dunlop Awards in Tasmania, in August 1969.

[14]Helen Langley et al., Op.cit., p.29

2. National Competitions.

(a) Since 1950 the Australian Broadcasting Commission has conducted a special radio (and later T.V.) competition for rural youth, on an annual basis.

For the first few years the competition was conducted exclusively for male members, however, a parallel competition was soon arranged for female members. In recent years the competition has included a team from each State (1 male, 1 female) in a single contest.

Apart from this change in competitors, the format of the competition itself has undergone various changes. Originally the competitors were judged according to their performances in special radio programmes, which meant in a programme lasting one hour each competitor was allowed a maximum of five minutes to answer specific questions. A recent change has been to interview each contestant for a greater length of time in a private situation, broadcasting or televising an edited session of the competition.

The allocation of marks to each competitor has been concerned mainly with knowledge of specific and general agriculture; home making and domestic science and current affairs. In addition, marks have been given for voice, presentation, personality, etc.

The A.B.C. has provided awards to the winning teams to enable State winners to visit the A.C.T. for the National Final (plus one week accommodation). National awards in

1970 provided fares and accommodation for the winning team to visit any part of Australia of their own choice for a visit lasting up to two weeks.

(b) In recent years various State contests have been extended to provide for interstate or national finals. These finals have been conducted during the currency of National Rural Youth Convention[15] with awards and trophies provided by the Australian Council of Rural Youth and commercial sponsors. These contests included in 1970:-

(i) Debating: The State champion debating teams taking part: each team consisting of three members each speaking for ten minutes, with no right of reply by opening speakers.

(ii) Public Speaking: One finalist from each State delivering a prepared address on a subject of the contestant's choice, lasting seven minutes. This followed by impromptu addresses on a subject handed the competitors immediately prior to speaking.

(iii) Demonstrating: Single competitor from each State, demonstrating on a rural or home making topic. Time allowed - twenty minutes.

(iv) Cookery: Single member from each State preparing and serving an oriental meal for four persons. Time allowed - two hours.

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[15] See the National bodies p. 122.

(v) Dressmaking: Single member from each State submitting a negligee set of gown and coat; contestants modelling their own garments.

Candidates in the finals of these competitions were required to win a similar State competition to determine their eligibility.

3. Other State Competitions.

The number of competitive activities available to members within each State is formidable and certainly too extensive to describe in detail here. Descriptions, rules and conditions are available on the following contests:-

(i) Queensland:

Ploughing Championships
Preserving
Modelling
Baconer pig contests
Shorthorn beef evaluation
Angus judging
Young judges contest
Fat cattle contest
Safety driver contest
Drama
Programme Club Awards
Show exhibits

(ii) N.S.W.:

Most progressive Club Award
Junior Achievement Awards
Ampol Club Award
Show exhibits

(iii) Victoria:

Ampol bus tour
Beef study tour
Farm and Home Safety
Show exhibits
Livestock judging

(iv) South Australia:

Zone and Club show exhibits
Shearing and wool handling
Welding
Farm building planning
Preserving
Livestock judging

(v) West Australia:

Junior Farmer of the Year
Champion Club
Champion Council
Most improved Club
Most progressive Club
Citizenship
Report of the Year
Drama
State Achievement weekend

(vi) Tasmania:

Club Management competition
Club Efficiency competition
Most improved Club
Meeting procedure competition
Annual judging competitions
Fodder conservation competition
Show exhibits

Not all of these competitions are conducted on a State-wide basis nor are they conducted every year. They are, however, contests which have been conducted in recent times on a regional or State basis.

Besides the contests listed, each State organisation has conducted a "Miss Rural Youth" type contest with substantial awards for the winners.

Allocating Awards:

Reference was made previously to the Dunlop Awards and how they are allocated. In other competitive activities, judging panels are appointed by Clubs, Intermediate and State Councils to

make the selections.

The tendency in recent years has been to select members for travel scholarships and some other awards at a residential seminar. In Queensland, N.S.W., West Australia and Tasmania candidates are required to sit for a written examination, perform certain tasks to demonstrate such things as ability to address a meeting, write a report, leadership qualities. These items are assessed by observation and direct interviewing by panels of judges. Besides these aspects in N.S.W., considerable prominence is placed upon project work of the candidates. In most cases a candidate would need to pass through a series of preliminary selections at one or more of the intermediate levels before being eligible to participate in a State final.

In Victoria and South Australia candidates are assessed by interviewing panels at the various levels within the organisations, without any direct practical requirements.

Schools, Courses and Seminars:

Whilst most State organisations would agree that all their activities have an educational component, there are some activities more intense and at times, formal than the activities listed previously. These are schools and courses conducted on both residential and non-residential bases.

Basically, they appear to be of two types, what may be called the leadership or leader training course, and those aimed at assisting members to acquire skills in vocational or semi-vocational subjects.

The number of schools conducted varies from year to year as they do from State to State. Some are conducted on a State wide basis, others in regions and districts to suit local needs.

Some of the subjects covered in courses include:-

(a) Leader training schools.

Duties of club officers - Presidents
Secretaries
Treasurers
Directors
Public speaking, debating and demonstrating
Public Relations and Press reporting
Meeting procedure
Programme planning
Financial management
The rural youth organisations
Group dynamics
Understanding human behaviour
Social action
Community involvement; Government processes
Communications

(b) Vocational and semi-vocational.

Farm and home crafts
Farm management
Management principles
Stock and crop production
Farm planning
Soil conservation
Home and farm safety
First aid
Poise and deportment
Drama, music, art
International relations
Games and sports

Residential schools are usually conducted at some institution such as a University, Agricultural College, Research Farm with lectures and demonstrations being provided by the full-time rural youth officers or by visiting authorities. Many schools are conducted over weekends and occasionally longer. Non-residential schools are often held during a weekend with students travelling in daily, or on an evening or afternoon basis, e.g.

one night per week for six weeks.

Examinations in conjunction with schools appear to be rare[16], although some States employ an examination system as part of the process to select members for travel or other awards. In which case some of the courses play a significant part in the preparation of candidates for award activities.

Members' Insurance:

The organisations in Queensland, Victoria, West Australia and Tasmania provide, as a facility of the organisation, a members' accident insurance scheme to compensate members injured whilst engaged in official business of the organisation.

The Queensland organisation maintains a policy with Lloyds of London to cover members travelling to or from, or attending an official function. Compensation is available at $20.00 per week for disablement (100 weeks limit) and $2,000.00 for loss of eye or limb.

Clubs agreeing to participate in the scheme are required to pay an annual premium of 55 cents per member.

Insurance in Victoria is restricted to named individuals, particularly those participating in travel awards. The insurer is Federation Insurance Limited and the policy provides for payment of $1,000.00 in the case of death, loss of eyes, loss of limbs. It also provides $36.00 per week for total disablement or $9.00 partial disablement. The premium is at the rate of $1.00 per week, paid by the person insured.

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[16] The Tasmanian organisation may award Proficiency Certificates to members reaching a specified standard in farm and home craft schools.

In West Australia the Federation maintains a policy with Barkers and Traders Pty. Ltd., which is optional to members agreeing to pay the premium of $1.00 per year. The policy provides cover for death, loss of limbs, etc. and disablement.

The organisation in Tasmania provides an accident cover for all members on the basis of $2,000.00 for loss of limbs or eyes, and $20.00 per week for disablement. The premiums of 50 cents per year are paid by all members as part of their membership subscription. The Tasmanian Government Insurance Office is the insurer and members are covered whilst attending or travelling to or from an official function.

IV.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

The financial arrangements of the rural youth organisations in Australia is, by any standards complicated. If it was only a matter of determining the sources of income of the organisations and the avenues on which it is spent, the task would be comparatively straightforward.

The issue is complicated by virtue of the fact the organisations derive their income from Government sources which are not always evident, and private sources such as commercial sponsorships, and from within the organisations.

In Queensland, Tasmania and to some extent N.S.W., the rural youth officers constitute what may be regarded as an advisory service to the organisations. But it is not possible even in these instances to say so much is spent on these specialist services as distinct from the internal administrative and other costs of the organisations for the officers in these States are at times, concerned with what might be called 'running the organisations'. Even this could be misinterpreted if 'running the organisations' was taken to mean deciding matters of policy. Perhaps saying the organisations are 'run' is closer to the mark if this implies a certain component of management.

Again, it is hardly fair to omit the remaining States from this description although probably in these States the officers

concerned are more directly involved with the management and administration of the organisations.

So that the net result of this is a mixture of funds employed within the organisations with public money being made available to provide an advisory and extension service overlapping the administrative costs by virtue of the management component of the work of these officers.

It is therefore difficult to separate administrative costs from advisory costs in terms of specific amounts, however, each of these will be discussed, at the same time trying to point out the areas of duality, and as well a third important area - the involvement of commerce and industry.

Managerial and Administrative Arrangements:

In the previous section describing the structure of the organisations, it was mentioned that each organisation is headed by what was called a governing body. In Queensland, N.S.W., Victoria and Tasmania these are State Councils, in West Australia a State Executive and in South Australia a Council of Rural Youth. In most instances a single person combines both roles of Secretary of the Council (and Manager of the organisation) and Chief Advisor to the organisation. The positions differ from State to State however, it is therefore necessary to consider each one in turn.

Queensland -

The State Organiser in Queensland has a threefold role of being the Secretary of the Council (as defined in the Constitution),

being the Chief Advisor to the Organisation and, as an employee of the Department of Education is responsible for the staff and the management of the Rural Youth Branch.

He is accommodated in premises provided by the Department and uses stationery, typewriters and other equipment provided by the Department.

The Organisation contributes, however, to the overall cost of management by employing a part-time accountant and meeting some of the printing and stationery costs.

N.S.W.-

The situation in N.S.W. varies from that in Queensland in that the Constitution provides for an Hon. Secretary, however, management of the Head Office and many other duties fall to the lot of the State Organiser.

The State Organiser is an officer of the Department of Education and is the senior officer to the remaining organising and supervising staff. All the rural youth staff, both in Sydney and decentralised offices, is accommodated in premises provided by the Department, also using equipment, stationery, etc. also provided by the Department.

Victoria -

The Manager of the Organisation in Victoria is the Director of the Royal Agricultural Society, or more specifically a Deputy appointed by him to fulfil this role and several others related to the R.A.S. as distinct from the Young Farmers. Funds for the employment of the Deputy State Secretary and other advisory

officers originate from a grant by the Minister for Agriculture, administered by the State Advisory Council and managed by the R.A.S. In effect, the State Advisory Council prepares a submission for the grant, which having been provided for in Parliamentary Appropriations, is deposited in the account of the R.A.S. for the employment of staff, provision of equipment and accommodation. The R.A.S. is answerable to the State Advisory Council for the utilisation of the grant and in turn the State Advisory Committee to the Minister for Agriculture.

Whilst the District Advisors are responsible to the Deputy Secretary for such matters as travelling allowances, local printing and telephone costs, recreational and sick leave (the mechanics of drawing salaries is carried out by the R.A.S. as directed by the Deputy Secretary), the Deputy Secretary is not the Chief Advisory Officer. The District Advisors appear to act on their own initiative in this regard, acting more as an advisory team without any single direction on the technical aspects of their work from the Deputy Secretary.[1]

South Australia -

The Senior Advisor and subordinate Advisors in South Australia are officers within the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture. Like the situation in Queensland, the Senior Advisor is responsible for his staff and acts as Chief Advisor to the Minister (Agriculture, not Education as in Queensland) and the

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[1] It is understood the State Advisory Council and the State Council is currently investigating the need for a Senior Advisory Officer.

Rural Youth Council. He is also responsible for providing managerial and secretarial facilities for the Organisation.

Accommodation and facilities for the Advisors is provided by the Department of Agriculture, typing for the Senior Advisor and his assistant being carried out by typists from the Department's typing pool.

West Australia -

All members of the staff in West Australia are employed by a statutory body known as the Junior Farmer Movement Council.[2] The Council includes -

An officer of the Department of Agriculture
" " " " Education Department
One nominee of the University of W.A. - Institute of Agriculture
" " " " Farmers Union of W.A. (Inc.)
" " " " Royal Agricultural Society
" " " " Country Womens Association
" " " " Perth Chamber of Commerce
" " " " Advisory Committee of the Federation of Junior Farmer Clubs
Three nominees of Federation of Junior Farmer Clubs

and is mainly responsible for the administration of a special fund maintained by the State Treasury.

The Chief Executive Officer acts as Secretary to the Council and is the Senior Advisor to the Council and the Junior Farmers Federation. As such he is responsible for the Extension and administrative staff.

Tasmania -

The position in Tasmania is unique in that the Organisation itself employs a full-time State Secretary. Funds for this purpose

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[2] This is the popular name for the Council. Strictly it is the "Council for the Advancement of the Junior Farmer Movement" as defined in the Junior Farmers Movement Act, 1955-1958.

are derived from contributions within the Organisation (members' subscriptions, affiliation fees, etc.) and other sources including a special annual grant from the Minister for Agriculture. The Organisation also meets the costs of accommodation and office equipment for the Secretary who, with the Senior Rural Youth Officer and his assistant constitute the Head Office staff. The latter two officers are within the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and as such are provided with stationery and postages by the Department.

Although this distinction exists between the advisory staff and the State Secretary, there is considerable overlapping in function. The State Secretary is in fact responsible to the Senior Rural Youth Officer in the day to day running of the Head Office, however, the State Secretary is expected to initiate and implement work on behalf of the Council with the overall management being shared by the Senior Rural Youth Officer and the State President.

The Organisation in Tasmania also employs an accountant on a part-time basis.

Banking Arrangements:

It will now be evident that finance for the movement as a whole is derived both from Appropriations and from private sources. To provide a degree of autonomy and a flexibility in operation, each State organisation, with the exception of South Australia, maintains separate bank accounts with the senior rural youth officer and

elected officers of the governing bodies acting as signing officers on behalf of the respective organisations.

Cash received from members and other sources within the organisations, grants and sponsorships from public and private sources are deposited in these accounts and deployed in the operations of the organisations; as distinct from the payment of services of most advisory officers and the provision of travelling allowances, clerical facilities, etc.

The position in South Australia differs in that the Public Account is the source of funds for both staff and management costs. In that State however, a special fund is maintained (the "Contributions fund") derived from within the Organisation and private sponsorships from which the State Committee (with the approval of the Council of Rural Youth) may draw for special projects and activities, without parliamentary approval.

Private Sources of Income:

Many activities of the organisations are 'self-balancing' insofar as the costs are offset by charges. For example, many of the schools and courses conducted for members are paid for by the participating members; printing and stationery sold to clubs and members. All organisations, except South Australia, carry ranges of merchandise for sale to members such as badges, blazers, ties, pennants. At times these are sold at a minimal profit to offset postage and handling costs and to provide a relatively minor source of income for the organisations.

Other sources of income within the organisations include

members' subscriptions and affiliations, special levies and contri.. butions. These are usually decided by the governing bodies and applied to members, clubs and the intermediate levels of the organisations as a condition of membership.

One of the major sources of income for the organisations is in the form of what is generally referred to as 'Commercial Sponsorship'. In this instance private industrial and commercial institutions provide finance to enable a particular activity to be undertaken. In some cases the support is provided to the organisation on the understanding it will be applied only to a special purpose, at other times - in the form of an award to individuals or an individual for winning a particular activity.

Over the years, each State has built up a formidable list of sponsors. At times a single sponsor will provide common support for all or several States, in other cases however, the sponsorship is purely a local matter. Again, a single sponsor might provide a different form of support, or even support a different event in various States.

Sponsorships are not generally provided on a perpetual basis, although it would certainly appear so in view of the number of years some have been provided. They are usually either offered or applied for on an annual basis.

Table 12 sets out the major sponsorships which have operated in the last two years.

TABLE 12

SPONSORSHIPS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN 1969-1970[3]

SPONSOR	SUPPORTED STATE	PURPOSE OF SPONSORSHIP	VALUE OF SPONSORSHIP
P. & O. Lines	All States	Study Tour - U.K.	Approx. 3,000 per State
		Most Progressive Club Award	200 per State
		Canberra Scholarship	1,500 (one winner)
Dunlop Limited	All States	Farm, home and personal improvement awards (W.Australia Research and education)	5,000 per State
Reserve Bank	One State per year	1. Study Tour - U.S.A.	1,200
	Queensland	2. Grant	500
	Victoria	Library grant	500
	S.Australia	Grant	500
	W.Australia	Grant	500
	Tasmania	Residential School and grant	750
Bank of N.S.W.	Queensland	Cookery Contest	600
	N.S.W.	1. Residential Schools - Hawkesbury & Wagga Agric. Colleges	App. 600
		2. Junior Achievement Awards	400
		3. Study Tours to Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland	App. 200
		4. Study Tour New Zealand (male)	200
	Victoria	1. Study Tour New Zealand	450
		2. Public Speaking Contest	App. 80
	S.Australia	Shearing and woolhandling competitions	200
	W.Australia	Study tour to Queensland	280
	Tasmania	2 x Residential Schools, Cressy Research Farm	400

[3]Compiled from J.B. Nutting (Ed.) Contest Guide, (Brisbane: The Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland, 1970): State Organisers' Annual Report for the year ended 31st Dec. 1969, presented to the Annual Meeting of the State Council (N.S.W.) 16th Jan. 1970; Programme of sponsored awards and competitions, (by Young Farmers of Victoria, 1970): Helen Langley et al, Op.cit. Annual Report of the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania, 1969-1970: Rural Credits Development Fund, (Sydney: The Reserve Bank of Australia, 1970).

			$
Ampol	Queensland	Club Awards	150
	N.S.W.	Club Awards	1,400
	Victoria	Bus Tour	1,000
	S.Australia	Most Progressive Club Award Debating trophies	700
A.N.Z. Bank	Queensland	2 x Study Tours New Zealand	600
	Victoria	Study Tour New Zealand	450
	W.Australia	Farm & Home Safety Awards Study Tour New Zealand	50 500
Shell Oil Co.	Queensland	Study Tour West Australia Debating Trophies	250 100
	Victoria	Study Tour West Australia	200
	Tasmania	Miss Rural Youth Awards	200
	N.S.W.	Study Tour West Australia	250
	S.Australia	Study Tour New Zealand	250
Australian Broad-casting Commission	All States	A.B.C. Radio Contest	Approx. total cost 4,000

Besides these, all the State organisations obtain sponsors and financial support on a local basis. As far as is possible to determine these include:-

TABLE 13

LOCAL SPONSORSHIPS[4]

STATE	SPONSOR	PURPOSE OF SPONSORSHIP	$ VALUE OF SPONSORSHIP
Queens-land	B.P. Aust.	Ploughing contests	750
	Commercial Bank of Aust.	Public Speaking contests	250
	Darling Downs Co-op.	Baconer competition	200
	Fowlers Vacola	Preserving contest	150

[4]Ibid.

Local Sponsorships:

Queensland (cont'd)	I.C.I.A.N.Z.	Demonstrating contest	400
	Queensland Life Newspaper	Judging contests	100
	Royal National Ass'n.	Brisbane Show exhibits - prizes and expenses	2,000
		Show contests	100
	Radio 4KQ	Interview contest	Free air travel in Q'land.
	Singer Sewing Machine Co.	Dressmaking Contest	300
N.S.W.	Rural Bank	"Star" Awards (overseas travel)	Approx. 3,000
		Area & District Awards - Star Competition	Approx. 1,000
		Study Tour New Zealand (girl)	200
	Fiat Aust. Pty. Ltd.	Study Tour Italy	Approx. 1,800
	Development Bank	Stud Sheep Award	200
	Fowlers Vacola	Achievement Award	Electric bottling outfit
	C.I.C.	Achievement Award	Electric Welding plant
	Royal Agric. Society	Sydney Show Camp	Approx. 2,500
	Graziers' Council	Travel expenses for two members to attend Queensland Org. Conference	100
Victoria	Milk Board	Dairy Queen Contest	800
	National Bank	Study tour to Queensland	250
	Olympic Tyres	Sydney Show Camp (fares to Sydney	120
	Commercial Bank of Aust.	Grants to District Councils	500
	Vic. Dairy Farmers Association	Debate and Quiz contests	200
	Thomson	Study tour to Tasmania	50
South Australia	Savings Bank of S.A.	Public speaking contests	Trophies
	Commercial Bank of Aust.	Most Progressive Club in each of 12 Zones	"
	Lloyds Group	Farm planning and building competition	300

Local Sponsorships:

South Australia (cont'd)	Adelaide & Wallaroo Fertilizers	Demonstrating contest	150
	S.A. Gas Co.	Cooking Championships	300
	Royal Agric. & Hort. Soc.	Adelaide Show Camp	850
	Livestock Breed Socs.	Livestock Championships: Industry study tours	
	Ansett A.N.A.	Miss Rural Youth Contest	Interstate fares
West Australia	Past State President	Junior Farmer of the Year Award	Trophy
	Westralian Farmers Co-op.	Champion Club	Trophy plus 2 day tour of industries Perth
	New Holland Pty. Ltd.	Champion Council	Trophy
	Dalgety & N.Z. Loan Ltd.	Most improved club	"
	National Mutual Life	Citizenship Award	"
	Mr.W.J. Campbell	Reporter of the Year	"
	Prudential Assurance	Study Tour, Tasmania	Approx. 250
	Tom the Cheap	" " , South Australia	" 150
	Swan Brewery	Public speaking contest	Trophy
	Sunnywest Co-op Dairies Ltd.	Drama Festival	"
Tasmania	Mobil Oil Co.	Study Tour, New Zealand	240
	Davies Bros.	" " , Queensland	200
	Caltex Oil Co.	" " , Orange Field Day	200
	Commercial Bank of Aust.	Club Management competition	200
	W.J.T. Davies	Public Speaking	50

The West Australian organisation has two sources of income unique to that State. Some income is derived from the operation of a residential hostel, located in Perth. The hostel is well patronised by members visiting the capital, at very reasonable rates viz.

Bed and breakfast	$2.50
Casual meals	.70
Weekly B.&B.	14.00
Permanent Board	12.50 per week.

It might be assumed from these rates the hostel is run as a facility for members rather than a profit making enterprise. The other source is interest acruing from the investment of $9,000.00 bequested to the organisation from the estate of the late G.L. Davis, Esq. This income is used to subsidise leader training activities for members.

One further source of income available to the organisations should be mentioned. Most organisations conduct specific money raising projects from time to time such as a State Ball, a State Fair or someother social or semi-social event. The Queensland organisation has conducted an Art Union on a state-wide basis. The Rural Youth Organisation in Tasmania for the past five years has conducted a Miss Rural Youth Quest to raise money for a head-quarters building fund.

Financial arrangements at the lower levels:

To this stage, consideration has been given to the financial and administrative arrangements for the organisations, as a whole. It will be appreciated, of course, that Clubs and the intermediate Councils and committees all have financial involvements necessitating the raising and expenditure of money to further the particular objects of the organisations at that level.

Obviously it is not possible to deal with every instance as circumstances change extensively from year to year as they do from place to place.

It is probably sufficient to say that each Club, Council, etc. is not only required to be self sufficient financially, but also to contribute to the overall cost of running the organisations.[5] Funds for these purposes are raised in a variety of ways, through the combined efforts of members. Some of the more common methods employed are:-

Individual membership fees payable to the Club.
Affiliation fees paid to higher Councils by Clubs.
Grants and sponsors at the local level.
Club and Council activities such as -
Dances,
Balls,
Producing crops and livestock,
Collections of objects for sale,
Appeals, walkathons,
Fairs, fetes and produce stalls.

All groups operate on local bank accounts, with the office-bearers acting as signing officers.

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[5] Reference has been made previously to the need for subordinate levels to pay affiliation fees, levies, membership subscriptions to the governing body in the particular State.

V.

EMPLOYED STAFF AND PERSONNEL AIDING THE RURAL YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Various references have been made to the advisors and other officers aiding the State organisations,[6] particularly in regard to roles being undertaken to foster, promote and manage the organisations and their activities.

The part played by these officers is so extensive it warrants a review of their roles and functions, and the location, salaries and other characteristics, of those actually involved.

Roles and functions of employed personnel:

The task of defining the role or roles of the various personnel associated with the rural youth programmes on a full-time basis is by no means a straightforward matter. Indeed, the range of opinions expressed on what an Advisor (in the professional sense) is or is not, should or should not be, are so wide it suggests some clarification is needed for the benefit of employers, employees and members.

Probably the best starting point would be to determine from the officers themselves, their roles as distinct from any duties which may be defined in formalised duty statements.

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[6] See particularly "Managerial and administrative arrangements" p. 85.

Whilst there would probably be some agreement on the broad responsibility of aiding the intellectual and other development of the member along desired lines, the issue becomes clouded when consideration is given to such matters as - the extent to which any officer is, or should be, involved in the management of the organisation, personal relationships with the members and the particular aspects of the work being stressed. For example, there is a strength of feeling which suggests the work of these officers should have a strong bias towards aiding farming proficiency. Wellings, in the inaugural issue of the Journal of the Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers asked "should we or our employers consider our work to be agricultural extension?"[7]

The response by other officers in subsequent issues of the Journal indicated there was no clear image of a single role. Whilst there appeared to be some agreement that professional rural youth advisors were agricultural extension officers, there was considerable disagreement on (a) the precise meaning of "agricultural extension" and (b) the role of the agricultural extensionist:

Another starting point is to review some of the comments published at various times on the roles of staff by the organisations in an attempt to find some common patterns.

Dealing with each State in turn:

In Queensland - the State Organiser, Mr. J.B. Nutting, has said

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[7] John Wellings "Rural Youth work and its relationship to agricultural extension in Australia" Journal of the Australian Institute R.Y. Officers. Vol 1 No 1. March 1967.

> ...officers provide considerable guidance in an advisory capacity at all levels of the Movement and are in particular, responsible for member training programmes ...[8]

and

> ...staff will act as a central source of necessary material for such schools including printed reference material, films, speakers and display equipment which can be directed to wherever the schools will be held. In this way a small number of officers specialising in this field can provide the key to a whole range of agricultural training activities throughout the State, covering far more ground than previously when they would have been required to organise and conduct each school personally.[9]

In that State, a great deal of prominence is placed upon the part played by members as distinct from the advisory services provided by the Rural Youth Branch of the Education Department. The Official Handbook points out -

> Staff do not have the power to change rules or regulations made by the State Council, but are able to give guidance on the clarification or interpretation of rules and can propose draft rules.[10]

On the other hand in N.S.W. the Supervisors and Organisers play a more direct role in the affairs of the Organisation. For example, the Constitution[11] provides for;-

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[8] Official Handbook of the Rural Youth Organisation in Queensland Op.cit. p.22

[9] J.B. Nutting, "The Rural Youth Branch Queensland Education Department", The Organisation of Adult Education in Australia, proceedings of the Seventh Annual Conference Aust. Ass'n. of Adult Education, Adelaide, 1967 Vol. II.

[10] Handbook of the Rural Youth Organisation of Queensland. Op.cit. p.22

[11] Constitution of the Rural Youth Organisation of N.S.W.

the State Organiser, Deputy State Organiser and the Girls' Supervisor and two representatives from the Supervisors' Association are members of the State Council.

Area or District supervisors are empowered to nominate representatives to State Council where there is no District Council operating.

Supervisors are ex-officio members of Area Councils, Committees and Executive.

The formation of special interest groups requires the approval of Area Supervisors.

The enrolment of a member in a particular club maybe determined by a Supervisor.

District Supervisors may grant exemption from carrying out projects, in special circumstances.

Membership may be terminated by Supervisors in special circumstances.

Club leaders of Junior and Composite are appointed with the approval of Supervisors.

The main duties of District Advisors are spelled out succinctly in Victoria:

> ...to form new clubs and help them with their early meetings and then maintain regular contact with the clubs and members to guide and assist them in their activities.[12]

In a later edition of the same booklet -

> Supervisors do not attempt to control clubs or members, but are appointed to guide, help and encourage them in carrying out their various activities.[13]

In South Australia, the Rural Youth Advisors constitute what the Handbook calls an "administrative organisation"[14]. The duties

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[12] Youth Points the Way, Op.cit. 1957 p.13

[13] Ibid., 1966 p.13

[14] A.T. Hooper, Know Your Movement, Handbook for Officers and members of Rural Youth Organisation of S.A. Op.cit., p.11

of the Advisors are

> ... to assist clubs and particularly their parent advisory committees, on matters affecting club welfare. It is the role of the Advisor to act as a consultant.[15]

The Extension Officers in West Australia combine two principal roles acting as subject specialists and general advisory officers to the organisation.

> ... the Extension Officers role is primarily of an advisory nature.
> They are specialists in their particular field (e.g. agriculture, leader training, etc.) are always helpful and mindful of the problems experienced by youth today. Extension staff are the initiators of change - they give forth ideas, solid leader training campaigns, conduct special interest groups and are always on hand to foster club spirit and development.[16]

In the remaining State, Tasmania, the Organisation is fostered by three Agricultural Extension officers "... who devote their full-time efforts to advising and organising at all levels of the Organisation."[17]

There is, however, a differentiation between the role of the Rural Youth Officers and the Regional Organiser. The former are concerned with the implementation of informal education programmes including an advisory service for the members and the organisation in general. The Regional Organiser on the other hand is not an advisor nor educator as such, but is concerned with straightout organising of various activities particularly in terms of promoting the expansion of the organisation and providing a link with technical services within the Department of Agriculture.

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[15] Ibid.

[16] Helen Langley et al., Op.cit., p.26

[17] K. Topfer, "Rural Youth in Australia" Tasmanian Journal of Agriculture Vol. XL No.4 August 1969, p.246

It will be seen therefore, there is no clear image of a single role for the officers in the various States. Each State placing importance on a particular role according to the prevailing needs and views. The officers in N.S.W. are obviously more involved with supervision of the organisation and the members than is the case in other States, but this is easy to reconcile when the ages of the members and the compulsory projects (requiring much more personal contact by the supervisor), are taken into account. Nevertheless it is possible to discern separate roles carried out in each State not necessarily the composite function of individual officers, nor the specialist activity of others. Rather a range of duties carried out in part or in whole, depending upon the local situation.

These roles appear to be:-

(1) Promoting the expansion of the organisation through the formation of new clubs and recruiting new members.

(2) A managerial role concerned with exerting either a direct or indirect influence on the efficient operation of the organisation, at all levels.
Even this might be subdivided into straight out organising, i.e. providing facilities and activities for member participation and/or initiating practices to see these things take place.

(3) An advisory service in terms of counselling the members both on organisational and technical matters. This service is provided in both individual and group situations.

(4) An educative role where the advisor is in fact the source of information, imparted for the development of the members.

Throughout all roles, however, there is the common thread of a teaching function. Not of course in the formal teacher-pupil relationship, but rather a more subtle influence to promote self-development in an education programme.

The degree of importance placed on any one of these roles, or their combination varies from State to State as it does from officer to officer. As Giles puts it "How to maintain a stable group and yet preserve the individual's freedom to choose, is the Extension Officer's dilemma."[18]

The interesting question which thus emergos is how valid is it to expect any single officer to carry out more than a single role? Of all the officers employed only in one State (Tasmania) is the promotional role separated from other functions. It is surely a question which needs resolving.

Turning to those engaged in the work.

Location of Rural Youth personnel:

Each of the six Organisations revolves around a Head Office based in the capital city. In Queensland and N.S.W. the staff occupy offices within the Department of Education; in South Australia the offices of the Senior Advisor and his assistant are within the Department of Agriculture; in Victoria, office space is provided by the Royal Agricultural Society; in West Australia and Tasmania, the rentals of indopendent accommodation are met by the organisations.

In each of the Head Offices is located a senior officer who in most instances assumes the supervision of subordinate officers and exercises some management of the Organisation. One

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[18] D.K. Giles, "The Junior Farmer Movement, West. Australia", The Organisation of Adult Education in Australia: Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Conference, Australian Ass'n. of Adult Education, Adelaide 1967. Vol II. p.327

exception is Victoria where the nominal Secretary of the Organisation is the Director of the Royal Agricultural Society but in particular, his Deputy acts as administrative head of the advisory staff. In this instance, he is concerned with payment of salaries, travel costs, and other administrative matters in contrast with the advisory nature of the work of other Area Advisory officers in that State.

In Queensland, N.S.W. and Victoria, the subordinate officers are located in decentralised offices throughout the States. The same principle applies in Tasmania with the Senior Rural Youth Officer and his assistant based in Head Office and the Area Organiser at Wynyard. The only exception to this decentralised administration is in West Australia where the Chief Executive Officer and all extension officers are based in Perth.

In all States except South Australia, various full-time administrative assistants such as typists, clerks, etc. are located in the Head Office of the Organisations. In South Australia however, facilities within the Department of Agriculture are made available as required to the Rural Youth Officers. Officers in decentralised offices generally have access to some form of typing and at times clerical assistance.

Rural Youth officers are located throughout Australia, at the following centres:-

Queensland: Brisbane
Charleville
Toowoomba
Cairns

N.S.W.	Sydney		
	Paramatta		
	Newcastle		
	Lismore		
	Wollongong		
	Tamworth		
	Bathurst		
	Wagga Wagga		
	Paramatta	Coffs Harbour	Inverell
	North Sydney	Kempsey	Dubbo
	Maitland	Bega	Forbes
	Taree	Goulburn	Young
	Murwillumbah	Armidale	Wellington
	Casino	Gunnedah	Cootamundra
	Albury	Cooma	Griffith
Victoria:	Melbourne		
	Charlton		
	Mount Eliza		
	Wangaratta		
	Cobden		
	Traralgon		
	Bendigo		
South Australia:	Adelaide		
	Murray Bridge		
	Naracoorte		
West Australia:	Perth		
Tasmania:	Hobart		
	Wynyard		

Qualifications and training of rural youth officers:

The majority of full-time rural youth advisory officers in Australia have a rural background. In some instances (Regional Organiser, Tasmania; Area Advisors, Victoria; Advisors in South Australia) this background is evaluated in terms of experience, whereas the majority of other officers have academic qualifications in the form of a Diploma or Degree in Agriculture.[19]

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[19] Future Advisors in South Australia will require a Diploma in Agriculture as a prerequisite for appointment.

None of the officers appear to have any specific qualification in youth work[20] other than the hard school of experience, although some of the members of the staff in N.S.W. and West Australia have had teacher training.

Cadetships have been offered in N.S.W. and Queensland from time to time, to the State Agricultural Colleges on the understanding the recipients join the staff as supervisors or organisers, following training.

Since the formation of the Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers[21] in 1966, two training sessions for members have been conducted. The first at Melbourne in 1967 attempted to examine the place of rural youth organisations in contemporary agricultural education programmes; and the second at Geelong in 1969, the place of the organisations in teaching farm management.

In view of the numbers involved in N.S.W., it has been possible for the Department of Education to conduct special training courses for Rural Youth Supervisors mainly on a biennial basis. These courses have included papers presented by members of the staff and others invited to participate as visiting consultants.

As an example of the scope of these courses, the following subjects were introduced in 1967:

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[20] This is not surprising as no courses of this type are available at the Australian Universities.

[21] See The National Bodies p. 120.

[22] Listed from Dept. of Education (N.S.W.): bound Volume of papers read before the Third Biennial residential Training Conference for staff of Rural Youth Clubs of N.S.W. Katoomba N.S.W. Aug. 1967

Educational tours
Publicity statements
Field days
Project Supervision
Conduct of meetings
Submitting reports
The club and the community
Junior clubs
School clubs
Show exhibits
Sponsors
Monthly reports
The needs of Youth
Professional behaviour
Programming for senior clubs
Leaders, counsellors and advisors
Discussion group technique
Work planning
Environmental characteristics of Clubs
Working with members
Social activities
National co-operation
Leading a junior club
Girls' activities
Schools of instruction
Debating
Community development

Staff training in the remaining States appears to have been restricted to general extension techniques and procedures required by employing authorities. Only two instances are known of officers being permitted time off to undertake part-time university study.[23] In both instances the officers studies for, and received a B.A. degree.

Some characteristics of rural youth officers in Australia:

The following Table has been compiled from information collated by the Institute of Rural Youth Officers and a log of claims prepared by a staff member in Queensland;[24]

Opportunities for promotion:

One of the more noticeable characteristics of the employment situation of the rural youth advisors is the apparent deficiency in opportunity for advancement.

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[23] Mr. J.B. Wellings (N.S.W.) and the writer.

[24] Letter from Ted Dobbs, District Organiser Rural Youth Organisation, Queensland, June 26, 1970.

TABLE 14

PROFESSIONAL RURAL YOUTH STAFF

STATE	EMPLOYER	DESIGNATION	NO. IN STATE	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR APPOINTMENT	SALARIES
Queensland	Department of Education	State Organiser	1	Diploma in Agriculture	6460-6670
		Area "	-	3 University subjects	4970-5400
		District "	3	4th Yr. Secondary	4370-4850
		Assist. "	6	" "	3320-4240
			10		
N.S.W.	Department of Education	State Organiser	1	Graduate	7750-8150
		Deputy St. Org.	1	Diploma in Agric.	6800-7320
		Area Organiser	7	" " "	6360-6580
		District Supervisor	21	" " "	3615-5970 (Graduate)
		Girls Supervisor	1		3057-5970 (non-graduate)
			31		
Victoria	Royal Agricultural Society	Advisory Officer	5	Aptitude and personal qualities	4190-4623

PROFESSIONAL RURAL YOUTH STAFF:

South Australia	Department of Agriculture	Senior Advisor Advisors	1 5 6	Diploma in Agriculture Now Diploma	4610-5030 3409-3873(non Diploma)
West Australia	Junior Farmer Movement Council	Executive Officer Extension Officer " " (Girls)	1 5 1 7	Graduate " "	
Tasmania	Department of Agriculture	Sr. Rural Youth Officer Rural Youth Officer Regional Organiser	1 1 1 3	Diploma in Agriculture " " 4th Yr. Secondary	6697-6987 3415-5524 2775-3342

There appears to be some opportunity for the senior officers in Queensland, N.S.W., South Australia and Tasmania to be promoted to higher levels within their Departments, however the Advisors in Victoria will need to transfer to some other position in the Royal Agricultural Society to be up-graded. The Executive Officer in West Australia would need an entirely new appointment.

Progression from the subordinate levels in Queensland is dependant upon the acquisition of at least three University subjects and the progression from Area Organiser to State Organiser in N.S.W. is conditional upon the appointee being a graduate.

The Advisors in South Australia and the Regional Organiser in Tasmania[25] are at present incapable of occupying higher positions owing to their lack of appropriate qualifications, not required for their initial appointment.

The Extension Officers in West Australia could rise to become the Executive Officer, but like the present holder find the apparent position of nowhere to go within the current employment structure.

The concept of a career range in rural youth advisory work assumes some importance if the effectiveness of the officer in establishing a working rapport with members is influenced by age. This raises a separate but important issue which warrants further investigation. To date there is little empirical evidence to

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[25]This is a temporary position provided by Commonwealth Extension Grant funds. It was considered originally the occupant would return to his work on the home farm.

suggest the age gap between advisors and members is the only limiting factor, however the question has been raised by some officers in informal gatherings and is therefore a question exercising the minds of some advisors, as the age gap widens.

Although this question is unresolved, one thing is certain -- quite a few persons currently holding advisory positions will either reach retiring age in those positions or find employment in some other field.

VI.

THE NATIONAL STRUCTURE

A study of the six rural youth organisations in Australia would not be complete without some reference to the national rural youth bodies for it is these which tend to tie the State organisations into something resembling an Australia-wide movement. Indeed, the Australian Council of Rural Youth (one of the National bodies) has at times been regarded as the governing body of a National Movement with some resulting confusion, for in no way do the National bodies have any directive authority over the State organisations. They function in fact only to co-ordinate matters and activities of common interest, although this is often extended to arranging activities and inviting the participation of the States. There is however, no authority vested in the National bodies to direct the sovereign State organisations to act in any direction.

There are five National bodies, or strictly speaking three bodies and two national events, which must be identified. The Australian Council of Rural Youth, the Rural Youth Foundation of Australia, the Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers, the Interstate Conference of Rural Youth and National Convention of Rural Youth.

1. The Australian Council of Rural Youth:

Origins - What is now the Australian Council of Rural Youth (A.C.R.Y.) was formed in 1952 as the Australian Council of Young Farmers. The formation of the Council was promoted by the Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W. which extended invitations to the State rural youth organisations and other interested bodies.

The Council changed its name in 1965 to the Australian Council of Rural Youth and became incorporated under the Association Incorporation Act 1895-1962 of West Australia in 1968.

Composition - The Council includes three representatives from each of the State rural youth organisations together with one nominee from each

Australian Broadcasting Commission
Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
" " " " N.S.W.
" " " " Tasmania
Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society of South Australia
Royal National Agricultural & Industrial Association of Queensland
Council for the Advancement of the Junior Farmers Movement in West Australia[1]

Membership of the Council has a more or less permanent element in that one of the nominees of each State organisation is usually the senior rural youth officer from that State. The Executive, in fact, is almost exclusively made up of these permanent officers. The current President of the Council is the writer; the secretary - Mr. R.P. Storey on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society of N.S.W.

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[1] Summarised from the *Constitution*: The Australian Council of Rural Youth.

Meetings - Meetings of the Council are held in June each year usually in each capital city, by rotation[2] in the following order:

Tasmania
West Australia
South Australia
N.S.W.
Victoria
Queensland

The meeting usually extends over two days, combining a general meeting with the annual election at which the office bearers are elected and the Annual Reports received. A smaller executive (one representative from each State plus the Chairman from Interstate Conference) meets in January/February in Sydney, N.S.W. with other meetings at times and places as required.

Functions - Under the terms of the Constitution, the Council functions to enable member organisations to:-

(a) Co-operate in the determination and implementation of policies and programmes of individual or mutual benefit to the Australian Rural Youth Movement affiliated with the Australian Council of Rural Youth.

(b) Administer programmes developed by the Council.

(c) Provide an Australia wide organisation for the discussion of matters of common interest to the Rural Youth Movements in the States and Territories of and under the control of Australia now or in the future.

(d) Assist in giving effect to the objects of all Rural Youth Movements throughout Australia and territories under its control now or in the future.[3]

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[2]The rotation will be broken in June 1971 when the Council proposes to meet in Christchurch, New Zealand.

[3]Constitution: The Australian Council of Rural Youth. p.1

In detail current activities of the Council include the administration of:-

The International Farm Youth Exchange Programme.[4]
The P. & O. Awards[5]
National contests[6]
The Australian Programme for International Rural Youth.

This latter activity plans to bring twenty one rural youth workers to Australia in 1971 through the support of the Commonwealth Department of External Affairs to undertake a study of the rural youth movement in Australia. It is proposed the course will commence in March and will last thirteen weeks.

In general, the Council acts as a clearing house for State organisations and other National bodies on all matters of common interest. It receives recommendations from all these sources and in turn either implements a national event offered as a programme activity for the constituent bodies, or makes recommendations to the constituents.

Finance - Income of the Council is derived from three main sources:

Affiliation fees from constituents	($360.00 in 1969)
Grant from the Reserve Bank	(400.00 in 1969)
Sponsorships:	
P. & O. Lines	(3,200.00 in 1969)
Reserve Bank (IFYE)	(1,200.00 in 1969)[7]

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[4]See page 69.

[5]See page 69.

[6]See page 75.

[7]From the Annual Report of the Australian Council of Rural Youth for the year ended 30 April 1970 (in the files of the Council)

In addition, costs incurred by I.F.Y.E. and U.K. exchangees travelling within Australia are met from the Council funds but are recouped from the State organisations on an equal basis.

The funds of the Council are applied to the overseas travel scholarship programmes and the employment of a secretary and general administration.

2. The Rural Youth Foundation of Australia (RYFA):

Origins - Early in the 1960's the Australian Council decided to bring to Australia a world authority on rural youth and rural youth organisations to review the progress and development of the organisations in Australia and in particular to suggest paths which should be followed in the future. An amount of £2,000 ($4,000.00) was made available by Ampol Australia Ltd., which was applied in 1963 to bringing Dr. Harold Baker from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada for the study.[8]

It appeared likely at the time, there would be further activities of the type undertaken by Dr. Baker and, as the Australian Council was already committed in terms of time and resources, a new body should be formed to administer national research and education projects. A further reason for the formation of the new body was that the total membership of the Foundation should be more permanent than the Australian Council, which included a large proportion of members changing each year. Considering these points,

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[8]See Harold R. Baker A Study of Rural Youth in Australia, A Report to the Rural Youth Foundation of Australia (Sydney: Ampol Petroleum Limited: 1964)

the Australian Council promoted the formation of the Foundation and after several constitutional committees had carried out the preparatory spadework, the Foundation was inaugurated in 1967 and incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1895-62 of West. Australia, in 1968.

Composition - The Foundation includes one nominee of each of the State rural youth organisations together with one nominee from each of the following:-

Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry
" Office of Education
The Minister of Agriculture of South Australia
" " " Education in N.S.W.
The Department of Agriculture in Tasmania
" " " Education in Queensland
" Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria
" Council for the Advancement of Junior Farmers in West Australia[9]

The porsonnel of the Foundation considerably overlap the Australian Council insofar as the nominees of the

Minister for Agriculture in South Australia
" " Education in N.S.W.
Department of Agriculture in Tasmania
" " Education in Queensland
Council for the Advancement of Junior Farmers in West Australia

are usually the senior rural youth officers in each State, attending meetings of the Australian Council as nominees of the State organisations, rather than employing authorities.

The current President - Secretary of the Foundation is Mr. Malcolm Longstaff of P. & O. Lines, Sydney.

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[9]The Council in West Australia, being an incorporated body under Statute (Junior Farmers Movement Act No. 23 of 1955 West Australia) is itself a member as opposed to a nominee of that Council.

Meetings - Meetings of the Foundation and its Executive are held at times and places coinciding with meetings of the Australian Council.

Functions - The purposes of the Foundation are to obtain and administer finance on an Australia-wide basis:-

(a) for research;
(b) education;
(c) other similar projects which are decided on from time to time by the members of the Rural Youth Foundation,

so long as same will directly or indirectly promote or develop any Rural Youth Movement throughout Australia which is affiliated with the Australian Council of Rural Youth.[10]

Although the stimulus for the formation of the Foundation came from the proposed visit to Australia by Dr. Harold Baker[11], the Foundation was not formed until well after the visit. It was not therefore connected with the administration of that project. Following the formation of the Foundation however, the balance of funds obtained from Ampol were deposited in the bank account of the Foundation and from this an amount of $200.00 has been made available to the Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers.

Other activites include -

Australia-wide membership survey - a continuing project to identify ages, levels of education and vocations.

A review of methods of in-service training for rural youth officers.

In effect the machinery of the Foundarion is being maintained to provide for future activities in the fields of research and education.

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[10] From the Constitution: The Rural Youth Foundation of Australia. Part I.

[11] See Origins of the Foundation.

Finance - The only funds currently being held by the Foundation is the balance of grant for the Baker visit, less the $200. made available to the Institute of Rural Youth Officers.

The understanding of the Foundation is, no funds will be solicited unless they are to be applied to a specific project.

3. The Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers:

Origins - The formal decision to form an Institute was reached at a meeting of rural youth officers at Mt. Evelyn in 1966. The meeting had been convened by W. Mellor, a rural youth officer in Queensland, who had previously sought the interest and co-operation of fellow officers throughout Australia.

Composition - Membership is open to professional staff[12] within Australia, nominating on an individual basis, who had paid the prescribed membership fees.

The current President is Mr. C. Woodard, Woollongong and Secretary, Mr. J. Wellings, Bathurst.

Meetings - The Institute is required to meet at least biennially. To date meetings have been held -

1966 - Mt. Evelyn, Victoria (Inaugural)
1968 - Melbourne, Victoria
1969 - Marcus Oldham College, Geelong, Victoria.

Functions - The objects of the Institute are:-

To effect an interchange of ideas between members;

To promote the interests of its members and to afford opportunities to discuss such matters;

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[12] Personnel employed on a full-time basis to assist the State rural youth organisations in Australia.

To investigate research and training methods and make them known to appropriate institution, authorities and agencies;

To initiate research and training programmes in co-operation with the Rural Youth Foundation of Australia and for any other organisations;

To provide means for combined action in matters of common interest;

To co-operate where desirable with other organisations having similar interests.[13]

Specific activities undertaken by the Institute to date have been a meeting and symposium in Melbourne in 1968, reviewing informal agricultural education programmes in Australia; and a seminar and course in farm management (duration one week) at the Marcus Oldham Agricultural College, Geelong, Victoria in 1969. Papers and addresses from this seminar are currently being collated for publication through financial assistance provided by the Rural Youth Foundation.

The Institute publishes a Journal, issued biannually.

4. The Interstate Conference of Rural Youth:

As suggested earlier the Interstate Conference is more of a facility rather than a permanent body.

It is in fact an annual gathering of practising rural youth members - on the basis of three per State - convened by the Australian Council of Rural Youth, held in June, immediately before the meeting of the Australian Council of Rural Youth.

Items for the agenda for Interstate Conference are submitted from the State organisations, with final decisions from the

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[13] From the Constitution: The Australian Institute of Rural Youth Officers.

Conference being referred directly to the Australian Council of Rural Youth.

In recent times, there has been provision for the Chairman of the Interstate Conference to attend meetings of the Australian Council to provide continuing liaison.

Since 1964 a members and staff seminar has been held annually, usually at the same time as the Interstate Conference. These seminars have provided opportunities to review problems and activities at considerable depth, producing further recommendations for the State bodies and the Australian Council.

5. National Rural Youth Convention:

National Convention is not a national body but, like the Interstate Conference - a facility.

It will have been noticed that a considerable number of events, at the National level, happen during the month of June in each year, viz.:-

The Annual Meeting of the Australian Council of Rural Youth;
" " " " " Rural Youth Foundation;
" Interstate Conference & Seminar of Rural Youth members;
and the National finals of some contests.

All these events take place in a concentrated period of time - usually ten days to a fortnight in mid-June. The collective name for this is - National Rural Youth Convention.

As mentioned previously in the description of the Australian Council, Convention takes place in each State by rotation. In effect each State organisation is given the dual responsobility of

acting as Convention host and organiser and expediter of the Convention itself.

The host State must of course, act within the guidelines defined by the Australian Council, however, it arranges accommodation, judges, secretarial and administrative services according to its initiative. In these instances the State organisations become the agents of the Australian Council, acting for rural youth in Australia rather than the normal basis dictated by State boundaries.

VII.

FROM HERE - WHERE?

This dissertation has been an attempt to set down for the first time, a description of the six rural youth organisations in Australia with a brief mention of the National rural youth bodies in a single reference. More than that, it has been assembled in a way which will enable interested persons to see the similarities and the differences between the organisations together with factual descriptive and statistical data on the organisations as they exist today.

Collating the material has raised some interesting points. In the first place, it is apparent that statistical data in some states is very sketchy - records of this type are not maintained. Of course, it could be argued that the cost and effort required to do this, could be better employed in other directions. It seems, however, this information should be obtainable and therefore a uniform and co-ordinate system of maintaining statistical records should be introduced to provide a comprehensive and accurate picture. Probably the largest and most important issue is the question of the need and role of rural youth organisations, today. Although accurate statistics are not available for all States, it is evident the number of young people engaged in farming in Australia is declining steadily with the consequence that the proportion of farming members in the organisations in also apparently being affected. To some extent the organisations have passed

through phases of teaching the technology of primary production to those either on or going into farming, that is farm and home training for farmers; to training those on farms in subjects other than farm technology. The third phase has been the training of a mixture of those on farms and those not on farms in both farm technology and other subjects. Those associated with the organisations will be quick to point out that these have not been exclusive phases and in fact the original role of teaching farmers farming is the foundation to which the other two have been added.

What then is the role of a rural youth organisation in Australia today? An organisation teaching farmers vocational technology with other activities to cater for wider interests; or a general education programme aimed at youth in general in which rural education is a part?

The answer to this question lies in the context of contemporary Australian society which could provide such information as

> The needs for informal education programmes for youth of school and post-school ages to supplement/complement formal resources,
>
> and,
>
> The most effective ways of presenting programmes of this type to voluntary participants.

In more specific terms this study has pointed out

(a) The complexity of organisational structures - are they appropriate?

(b) State and National programmes. How long have the activities been carried out? What particular needs do they satisfy?

(c) Finances of the organisations. Is there an imbalance between the funds from Government, commerce and member sources?

(d) Staff roles. Is there a need for a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities?

(e) The National bodies. Should there be permanent officers at the National level? Should the National bodies have greater authority? Is there a need for a single National organisation?

The question of the direction of study of the rural youth organisations in Australia seems to be in supplying answers to questions such as those raised here.

Perhaps the process has been set in motion.

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